

PERSPECTIVES

A L U M N I M A G A Z I N E



Doing Justice: Career Prosecutors

WESTERN NEW ENGLAND COLLEGE SCHOOL OF LAW

FALL 2007

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Signs of Progress



Construction began this May as part of the first phase in the \$5.5 million expansion and renovation project at the School of Law. When complete, the project will include expanded building space for the growing law programs and a complete renovation of the Law Library.

Visit us on the Web
Our address is: www.law.wnec.edu

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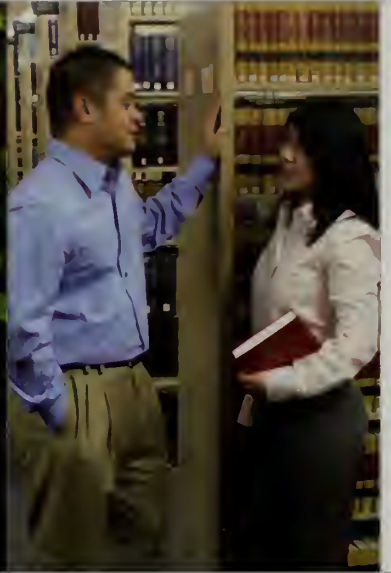
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WESTERN NEW ENGLAND COLLEGE SCHOOL OF LAW PERSPECTIVES
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FACULTY PROFILE:
Climbing Mountains

Attorney, legal educator, and author Michael Edmond Donnelly has been a member of the Western New England College School of Law adjunct faculty for two decades. Recently he shared with *Perspectives* his personal healthcare odyssey with cancer and how candor, humor, and a legal mindset helped him make the long climb back.

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STUDENT SPOTLIGHT:
Mike Belarmino 3L and Tammy Hui 3L:
A Passion to Learn...the Talent to Lead

Meet Mike Belarmino and Tammy Hui, President of the Student Bar Association and Editor-In-Chief of the *Western New England Law Review*, respectively. They spent the summer interning in Washington, DC, and two years ago, both left jobs thousands of miles away to study at Western New England College School of Law.

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From the Dean



"...the School is entering an extraordinary new era, one that will help it build upon the defining characteristics of innovation, a student-focused faculty, and experiential learning..."

Dear Alumni/ae and Friends,

There are not many times in life when one is cognizant that history is unfolding before one's eyes. But as I watch the progress of the \$5.5 million renovation and expansion to the School of Law building, I am keenly aware of the significance of this milestone in the history of the School of Law and Western New England College at large.

The construction rising up before us is a physical manifestation that the School is entering an extraordinary new era, one that will help it build upon the defining characteristics of innovation, a student-focused faculty, and experiential learning, while propelling the School and its faculty to achieve a new level of regional and national prominence.

Supporting the steel I-beams that have just gone up are thousands of alumni who believe in what we are doing and in the promise of what we will become. They have demonstrated their support of the project through gifts to the *Transformations* campaign that is funding this initiative. For all who have given, I am grateful for your generosity and commitment to the cause. For those who have yet to give, I urge you to give now to help us secure the remaining funds needed to reach our goal. Your gift or pledge by December 31 will enable us to achieve the challenge grant made by the Kresge Foundation.

Much has been accomplished thus far. The existing classrooms have been renovated and refurbished to welcome our returning students and the Class of 2010. New technology has been added to the School of Law facility enabling students, faculty, and alumni to do research in ways unfathomed just a decade ago.

Outside, the progress is more dramatic as the framework of our beautiful new addition begins to take shape. This work will continue through the winter months with renovations and additions returning to the interior of the building next summer while students are away.

Amidst this excitement, we have graduated one class and welcomed another. Our LL.M. in Estate Planning and Elder Law has grown in recognition and stature and we now have students from across the country in the online version of the program. The Clason Speaker Series, the Law and Business Center for Advancing Entrepreneurship, and the Institute for Legislative and Governmental Affairs continue to bring leading legal minds, elected officials, and members of the judiciary to our students and the greater community. I hope you can join us for some of these events.

I encourage you to visit, to assess our progress, or to attend our lectures and alumni programs. While new and improved, Western New England College will continue to be a place that we all will share.

Sincerely,

Arthur R. Gaudio

Arthur R. Gaudio
Dean and Professor of Law

Robert E. Salad '83 Joins Board of Trustees Appointed to Two-year Law Alumni Post

by Brendan Payne



"I believe this a place that not only makes good lawyers, but also really helps to shape good people and good practicing attorneys."

The Western New England College Board of Trustees welcomed Robert E. Salad '83 to the organization with his recent appointment to the position of Two-year Law Alumni Trustee.

Salad is an attorney, President, and Co-chairman of the Tax and Commercial Law Department of Cooper Levenson, headquartered in Atlantic City, NJ. The firm employs approximately 65 lawyers at 10 locations in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Nevada. Cooper Levenson represents major companies in the gaming industry such as Harrah's and Trump Entertainment, as well as numerous banks and insurance companies including PNC, Wachovia, Zurich Financial Services, and AIG.

"My biggest goal is to make a difference," explained Salad. "I certainly want to have input across the board on what our mid- to long-range goals should be and what programs would best suit our current and incoming students.

"From a parental standpoint, I think I am in a uniquely qualified position because I have two children in college. Having gone through the process of working with my own children in selecting schools, I am familiar with the role of the consumer, which is important."

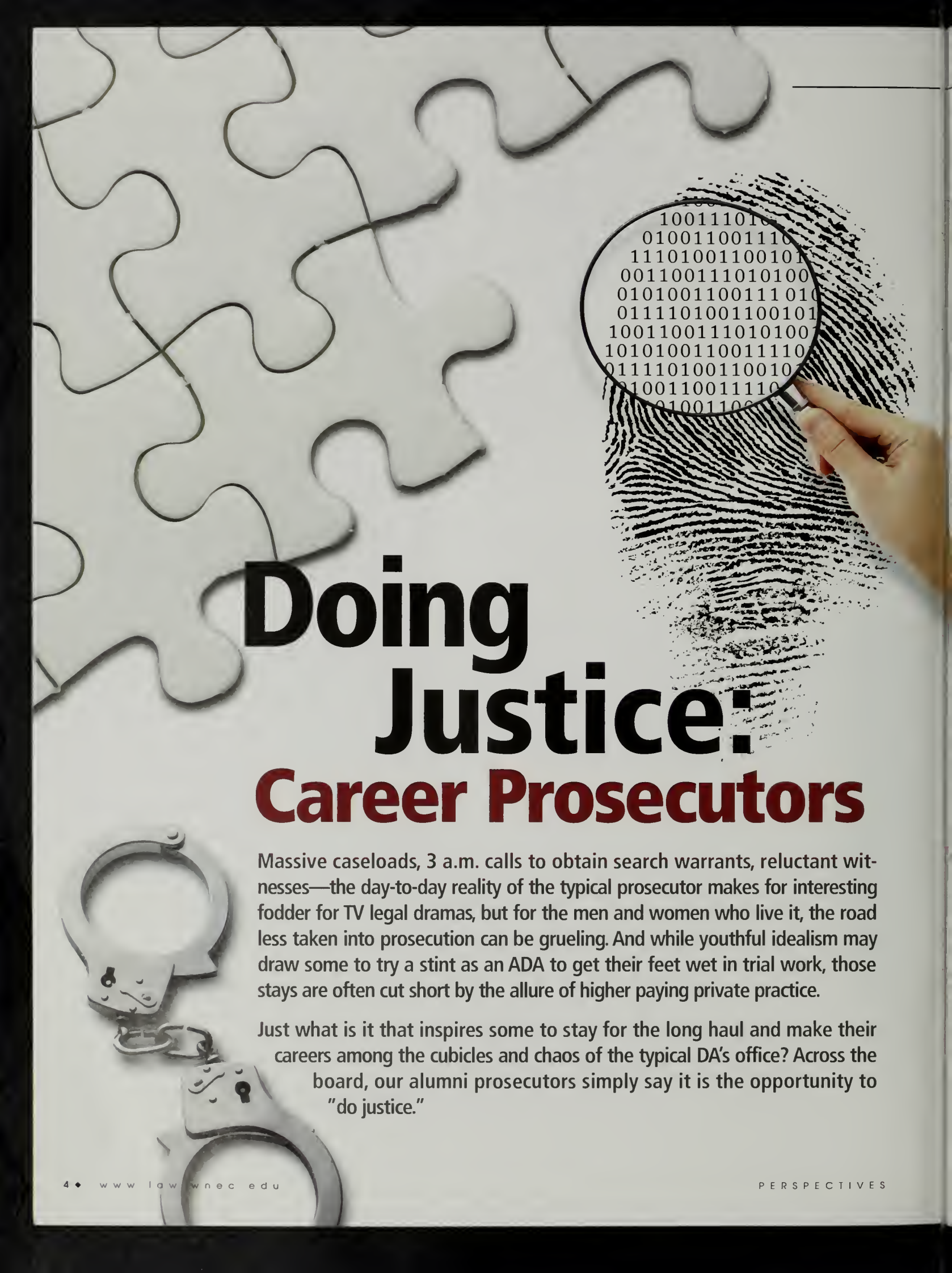
Salad has spent his entire professional career working for Cooper Levenson, starting out as an Associate after graduating from the School of Law and earning an LL.M. in Taxation from New York University in 1984. He was made a Partner in 1988 and has served as President of the firm for the past seven years.

"I had a great experience at the School of Law," said Salad. "It was a wonderful learning experience for me. The education I received there was instrumental in propelling my legal career. The professors in the School have been in private practice prior to becoming professors and that was unlike virtually every other school I had considered. I wanted to

receive both a formal education in the law and also a pragmatic education in the practice of law. I feel strongly that I did that and I know that the School continues to be committed to that concept."

As an expert in the field of business tax planning, Salad hopes to apply his knowledge in the growth and expansion of the School of Law, particularly during the final phases of *Transformations: The Campaign for Western New England College*.

"I've always had interest in financially supporting the School. Dean Gaudio has been kind enough to take the time to tell me what is going on in the world of law schools as well as what we were doing at Western New England College. As the plans developed over the past couple of years to increase and retrofit the physical facility, Dean Gaudio and I have spoken many times and he was nice enough to solicit my input. We've had a terrific bilateral relationship."



Doing Justice: Career Prosecutors

Massive caseloads, 3 a.m. calls to obtain search warrants, reluctant witnesses—the day-to-day reality of the typical prosecutor makes for interesting fodder for TV legal dramas, but for the men and women who live it, the road less taken into prosecution can be grueling. And while youthful idealism may draw some to try a stint as an ADA to get their feet wet in trial work, those stays are often cut short by the allure of higher paying private practice.

Just what is it that inspires some to stay for the long haul and make their careers among the cubicles and chaos of the typical DA's office? Across the board, our alumni prosecutors simply say it is the opportunity to "do justice."

Outwitting the Techno Geeks

Mitch Dembin '78
Computer Hacking and Intellectual Property Crimes Coordinator
U.S. Attorney's Office
San Diego, CA

The mental challenge of "Matching wits with criminals" is what keeps three-time Assistant U.S. Attorney Mitch Dembin coming back to prosecution. His hours spent mining leads in databases and unraveling clues hidden in code become most gratifying when he arrives at that golden "Gotcha Moment," particularly when his quarry are people "who think they are smarter than everyone else."

Today, most cybercrimes are not committed by random hackers, but by people who know the victim's systems literally inside and out. Quips Dembin, "Sometimes I think we should change our name from the Cybercrime Unit to the Former Employee Prosecution Unit!"

"The overwhelming majority of the people who I chase and prosecute for cybercrimes are former technical employees of companies, sometimes very high ranking, who use their knowledge of the system and their thirst for revenge to pop back into the system and do damage or steal. They're smart on the one hand, but they're sociopathic on the other. These techies assume they are smarter than everybody else. It's that arrogance that eventually brings them down and it's fascinating to find that mistake that they made and confront them with it. It shocks them to their foundation.

"When I started, cybercrime was a very limited field; this notion of hackers and people defacing websites was no big deal. Today, so many of our more traditional crimes have moved into the cyber arena from child pornography to theft of trade secrets to stalking, and, now, the big one—identity theft.

"Identity theft has become an organized crime operation where people, primarily from overseas, locate databases containing personally identifiable information, and do their best to break it, get the data, and then sell it to a series of wholesalers down to the point where it gets cashed out by someone, usually a dooper on the street, at an ATM."

Dembin understands life on those streets and the motivations behind the criminal mind all too well.

"I grew up in a city-owned housing project in Brooklyn; I understand how to think like a criminal," states Dembin wryly, "My father was a New York City Police officer, as was my uncle, and pretty much everybody I knew. I guess I had sort of cop mentality, both for good and for bad."

At the urging of a friend, Dembin enrolled in Western New England College School of Law back when it was located on the site of the former Our Lady of Lourdes convent. Dembin served as the managing editor of the premier issue of the *Western New England Law Review*.

"It was an unusual environment, but what I cherish most were the relationships that I developed, not just with the students, but with the faculty—people like Professors Margulies, Morgan, O'Connor, Harpaz, and Don Dunn."

Dembin's first job out of law school was at the SEC in Washington, DC. During his five-year stay, he took a one-year assignment as a special assistant U.S. Attorney. After successfully trying a dozen cases, he was hooked. He then secured an Assistant U.S. Attorney (AUSA) position in San Diego.

In 1985 he returned to the East Coast, heading to Boston to join the newly formed federal Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force.

Soon he was assisting in surveillance operations of Whitey Bulger's notorious Winter Hill Gang depicted in the film *The Departed*. Says Dembin, "If you read the book *Black Mass*, which is about FBI corruption in Boston, my case is Chapter 23. I did the wiretap on Heller's Café."

Dembin reveled in the pursuit of such big fish. He says, "Doing run of the mill drug cases, you're really not matching wits with anybody, but as you go up the food chain to the managers, you're dealing with much smarter people. It was fun figuring out how to infiltrate them and bring them down."

After the excitement of Boston, he entered into a brief partnership in Springfield focusing on defense work and technology. Soon he was invited back to San Diego as an AUSA specializing in fraud, where his limited knowledge of computers, acquired by typing up his own work on rudimentary word processors at the SEC and in private practice, changed the course of his career.

"As luck would have it, that was the first year that the Department of Justice put computers on prosecutors' desks and networked them into a system called Eagle.



"I was able to do *magical* things like change screen colors, or send and receive emails, including *attaching* files. And this absolutely amazed my colleagues. This gave me the reputation in the office of being a 'computer god.' I, of course, relished that. Who wouldn't? I knew the limits of my technical skills, but I certainly didn't discourage anybody from thinking I was an uber geek. And then, much to my misfortune, in 1991, a local computer programmer who worked for General Dynamics, the company that put the Atlas Rockets together, committed a computer crime. He created what we now call a logic bomb, a program designed to do damage sometime in the future. He left the company and somebody else discovered this program and reported it to the authorities before it did any damage. The case was assigned to a couple of federal agents who brought it to the U.S. Attorney and said, 'we have a computer crime, what do we do?'"

The case was only the third computer crime case in the country, following the Morris Worm, and the Legion of Doom phone hacking case. According to Dembin, "the U.S. Attorney told the agents, 'You have nothing to worry about, we have an expert here on staff,' and that was me because I could change Windows screen colors! That case thrust me into the limelight of what we now call cybercrime. In the years since, the government has done a lot for me, particularly the FBI, in allowing me to get some of the same training as the agents do."

But Dembin proved much more than just a quick study in creating screen savers. In 1999 he established the San Diego Regional Computer Forensics Lab (RCFL), today a national model. "The Lab," says Dembin, "handles all of the computer forensics work for the law enforcement agencies that comprise the southern district of California, including the military. There are now 13 in the U.S., all sponsored by the FBI."

Dembin is also proud of a case he then handled as Chief of the Bank Fraud section. "I was the lead prosecutor in a nationwide undercover operation called Operation Disconnect in which we targeted companies that were focused on ripping off the elderly by offering them guaranteed prizes. When we took it down, we arrested 240 illegal telemarketers across the country, 90 of them here in San Diego. We prosecuted them all and received well over 90 percent conviction rate."

"I've been lucky enough to have been in the position to do two things in my career that really made a difference. One was that case because the prize promotions scheme still hasn't returned. Creating the RCFL was the other because rarely when you do cases do you have long-lasting, society-wide impact."

Increasingly technology offers a new means of making such a difference.

Explains Dembin, "Once you obtain electronic information you have to be able to authenticate it, and get it admissible, which is also quite a talent. Lawyers today are slowly but surely getting better at it as the next generation comes along. But still, your major partners in law firms are people of my generation,

and a lot of them just don't get this stuff and shy away from it. It's almost as if they have unwritten rules about not asking for electronic evidence because they don't want to get asked back."

Generational attitudes aside, to further his own expertise with technology, Dembin left prosecution in 2000, first for a company called Exodus Communications, and later as CEO of his own network security firm, Evident Data. It wasn't long before the big boys took notice.

"I got recruited to the monster—Microsoft. They offered me the newly created position of Chief Security Advisor in the U.S."

After 14 months, much of it traveling extensively, Dembin determined he would need to relocate to Redmond, WA, if he was going to become a real player in the company. With much of his extended family happily entrenched in San Diego, he reluctantly concluded that moving was not an option.

"Microsoft is a great company to work for. If they were based here, I'd have a home," offers Dembin.

Dembin was once again wooed back to the San Diego U.S. Attorney's Office. Today, he is the Computer Hacking and Intellectual Property Crimes Coordinator and also trains federal agents and other lawyers in technology issues.

He surmises, "Learning technology as well as the law, can open up a huge field of opportunity for you, not just as a prosecutor, but also in private practice. Right now, I have the best of all possible worlds."

Giving a Voice to the Voiceless

Elizabeth Scheibel '80

District Attorney

Massachusetts Northwestern District

Northampton, MA

District Attorney Elizabeth "Betsy" Scheibel (R) never imagined she was destined to become a pioneer in prosecution or a national advocate for society's most vulnerable victims when she walked out the door of Western New England College School of Law and into to the arena of criminal law. But Scheibel has taken it all in stride as she goes about her daily business of pursuing justice.

Initially, just the pursuit of a law degree presented a unique challenge for Scheibel.

She recalls, "I had a tough time making the transition to law school because as a former science major at Mount Holyoke College I was used to one right answer and one way to get there. Whereas, in law school many different viewpoints are acceptable, as long as one can defend or sustain them. It really did foster the concept of thinking outside of the box, of considering many different viewpoints, of thinking more globally. I will forever be thankful for that because it has helped me in a number of areas other than just the law."

She also appreciated studying with professors with extensive court experience. Says Scheibel, "That was really helpful because as much as one learns in law school, in trial work there's a whole other world of information one needs to know."

Scheibel quickly took to the rigors of trial work in her first job as an ADA in Massachusetts' Hampden County. She recalls, "I started at the DA's Office at the very low end of the totem pole. The vast majority of my colleagues were men."

By 1988 she was the first assistant to Judd Carhart, then the DA of the Northwestern District. When he was named to the



State Superior Court in 1993, Scheibel made state history as the first woman DA in Massachusetts when she was appointed by Governor William Weld to finish Carhart's term. She ran unopposed and was elected in her own right in 1994.

"I never thought I'd be breaking ground. It was totally out of the blue; circumstances just presented themselves. I felt a bit of pressure as the first woman to try to succeed and do it the right way," states Scheibel who today is the only female DA among the Commonwealth's 11 top prosecutors.

A member of the Board of the National District Attorneys Association, she is serving her fourth consecutive four-year term as DA. Scheibel's district encompasses Hampshire and Franklin Counties, and the town of Athol in Worcester County and includes the college towns of Amherst, Northampton, and South Hadley, as well as more rural communities. She oversees a staff of more than 100.

She observes, "As a district, it's a decent size in terms of population, but you get a real mix between the cities and the rural towns. With the economy being depressed for some time, we've seen a lot of drug-related crimes, including larcenies and robberies. Traditionally, the majority of our crimes have been child abuse and domestic violence, and college-related drinking crimes."

Among the most challenging cases for Scheibel and her team to put together were the 1994 companion cases of *Commonwealth vs. Barry Loring* and *Commonwealth vs. Julie A. Pike*.

Recalls Scheibel, "These two young people broke into a man's home. He was an engineer and by all accounts a great guy. He went home for lunch every day and, unfortunately, he interrupted the B&E. He was murdered and his body was dumped in Vermont. We had more evidence on the male, but we believed that the woman was very involved, though we had very little on her and he wasn't talking.

"We were going forward on the male's case first. On the eve of trial, his lawyer came to us and said he wanted to talk. The information he provided filled in all of the missing pieces of what we believed had happened. It was amazing.

"They were both convicted and, 12 years later, the female continues to appeal. That was one of the most interesting and challenging cases to put together as far as how she was tied in."

Whether they can speak for themselves or not, Scheibel tries hard to make victims' voices heard. "I have always wanted to involve victims—I believe strongly in giving them a voice, giving them respect and dignity. Typically we're not at odds, but there are those occasions when we are. It's very difficult to convince someone to testify when they don't want to."

Horrified by the system-changing abuse case of two men with developmental disabilities in *Commonwealth v. Harold and Karol Simonton* in Raynham, MA, Scheibel has become an advocate for some of society's most vulnerable targets of abuse: children, persons with disabilities, and elders who are increasingly victimized by caregivers or family members. A noted national lecturer, she has led statewide multidisciplinary initiatives that unite law enforcement, district attorney offices, and human service agencies to help prevent, recognize, report, and prosecute crimes committed against persons with disabilities.



- Betsy Scheibel -
District Attorney

"I started an Elders and Persons with Disabilities Unit," states Scheibel, "to focus on crimes against elders and persons with disabilities. I've also been involved with the Triad program, which is an elder crime prevention program that Hampshire County Sheriff Bob Garvey brought back to this area."

Scheibel also led a special commission to review the Department of Mental Retardation, which has provided important recommendations on the reporting and investigations process, including the creation of a hotline.

Scheibel is optimistic that she has the tools to bring real change in the Commonwealth. She says, "Being pro victim and victim's rights goes with protecting our most vulnerable citizens—children, elders, and persons with disabilities, who are being abused at incredibly high rates nationally. Education and training are critical tools in our efforts to fight crime."

Beyond her chosen field, Scheibel has long sat on numerous professional and community boards and commissions. She had to learn to reduce those obligations for a brief time when she was diagnosed with breast cancer at the age of 41 and had to make her health a higher priority. Now feeling well, she credits her husband, Attorney Paul Boudreau '74, with being her strongest supporter throughout her professional and personal challenges. She contends that in the demanding work of prosecution finding ways to achieve balance between one's personal and professional life is important for both female and male prosecutors.

Despite all that she has seen and heard in court, Scheibel is neither disillusioned nor jaded. She asserts, "After 27 years as a prosecutor, I still feel, whether it's individually or as an office, we're making a real difference in the community. The key is making decisions that are just and fair!"



- James Thomas -
Connecticut State's Attorney (retired)

Protecting The People

James E. Thomas '77
Connecticut State's Attorney (ret.)
Judicial District of Hartford
Hartford, CT

After 30 years in prosecution, 14 as the State's Attorney for the Judicial District of Hartford, James Thomas retired this July. From traveling to California to visit friends to spending time with his twin baby granddaughters, he has adjusted well to his new lifestyle and is loving every minute of it.

Born in Scotland, Thomas spent his childhood in Canada before moving to Connecticut in his teens. In the early '70s he went to Central Connecticut State University to study sociology with the intention of later earning a law degree. Newly married and working part-time, he then enrolled in the Western New England College School of Law Day Program.

He remembers fondly, "We had an eclectic group—people from all walks of life—both the faculty and the students. I really enjoyed the overall experience."

Things moved quickly for Thomas after graduation. After brief stints as a clerk and at an insurance company he says, "Within a year I was hired as an Assistant State's Attorney down in New Britain. That's where it all began."

Thomas stayed in New Britain for four years until he was transferred to Hartford where he began trying felony cases. In 1993 he was appointed State's Attorney for Hartford, completing the term of his predecessor, Jack Bailey. He was reappointed to two eight-year terms in 1996 and again in 2004, overseeing 19 towns and Hartford.

One of the more significant cases Thomas' office prosecuted early on was the *State vs. Castonguay*, a retrial of a case surrounding the 1977 murder of Patrolman Robert Holcolomb, a Plainville police officer.

As Thomas recalls, "The officer was shot responding to a burglary and we handled the retrial.

"The benefit of a retrial is you can see the whole record. Unfortunately, so can the other side. They already know all the evidence and have a script in terms of cross-examination. But it was quite an experience. The defendant was reconvicted and sentenced to two life terms."

Throughout his career, Thomas worked diligently to increase prosecution of illegal narcotics.

"When I first started prosecuting," recalls Thomas, "drugs were viewed as a 'victimless crime.' Nothing could have been further from the truth, but that's basically the take a lot of people had on it in the beginning. I don't think those cases were pursued aggressively enough and it just mushroomed. I agree with treatment, but there comes a point where you just have to protect *The People*."

The increased prosecutorial pressure has produced results. Thomas observes, "The gangs were all criminal enterprises and a lot of the net worth of the gang was based on drug sales. I prosecuted a lot of the gang activity in the early '90s and it's really quieted down."

So what are the biggest changes Thomas has seen in 30 years of prosecution?

"With jurors being exposed to all these cop shows and CSI they have certain expectations. Even though you can prepare them in jury selection, the bottom line is people want to see that, they want to see technology. They want to have evidence they can see in front of them. And it is amazing the changes we've had, just in DNA alone in the last 10 years."

Like Mitch Dembin, Thomas sees cybercrime as the wave of the future nationwide.

"We've only seen the tip of the iceberg and we're already behind the curve. We haven't allocated the resources or trained people in this type of a crime so we're going to be playing catch up for a while."

Thomas concluded his prosecution career with the resolution of a triple homicide that occurred in Windsor Locks, CT, in 2003.

Recounts Thomas, "It was basically a killing for hire. The person who set it up had been going out with the wife of one of the owners of this automotive business and he set up a contract killing on the husband. Unfortunately, the young man who eventually went to do the killing, not only killed his intended victim, but the partner and one of the men that worked at the store. It took about six months to make an arrest, but we ended up arresting the three young men who were directly involved.

"But during that time, the person who set the whole thing up fled to Italy. So we were involved in an international extradition, which took three years. We were just actually able to get the guy back the week before I retired. It was perfect timing.

"I've been back to the office once since I've retired and it's strange to be an outsider. But I don't miss the three o'clock in the morning telephone calls for search warrants or to tell me someone else was murdered. And my wife doesn't either. It's just the day-to-day pressure. You're responsible for everything in terms of law enforcement that goes on in your district—your staff and the decisions they make. It's nice not to have that day-to-day pressure anymore."

Trial by Fire

How Howie Safford '83 Has Made His Office the Proving Ground for Future Prosecutors by Mary McLean Orszulak



His progeny number more than 100 and while most have traveled far beyond the halls of the Hampden County Court system, Howie Safford can take great pride in knowing that his Springfield office was the launching point for many successful legal careers. Under the tutelage of the now semi-retired Hampden County ADA, our students learned how to think on their feet, excel under pressure, and uphold the carriage of justice.

Throughout his 16-year stint as an internship sponsor, Howie grew the internship program and supervised the fortunate students who came under his wing. Many have gone on to be hired as ADAs in Hampden County or other area jurisdictions, while others have used this experience as a springboard to defense work and various specialties.



(L-R) Current members of the Hampden County DA's office include Western New England College School of Law alumni and Assistant District Attorneys Matthew Thomas '99, Eileen Sears '97, and James Goodhines '95 pictured here with Howie Safford '83.

A lifelong prosecutor, Howie was recruited right out of law school by the Hon. Michael Ryan '76, then the DA for Hampshire County, to work as an ADA. After opposing Bill Bennett in a major Hampshire County murder trial, Howie went to work for Bennett in 1991 when he became the Hampden County DA.

In short order, Howie jumped into supervising interns both from Western New England College School of Law and from other law schools and colleges from throughout the Northeast.

"I took over the interviewing and lining up of interns and Jim Orenstein '76 and I assigned them to various courts where they expressed an interest such as Appeals or Juvenile. In the summer, we had 8 to 10 interns. If they had 303 Rules Letters from the SJC, we'd put them in District Court in Springfield where they could still take advantage of the satellite courts."

Explains Howie, "With the 303 Letter, they were allowed to work under the supervision

of a licensed attorney. We had them do bail hearings and arraignment sessions and they could argue the bails on a daily basis. Of course, there were always one, two, or three ADAs in there with them, but it certainly helped in the summertime with vacations because they would get up to speed

relatively quickly. They might also do some of the de minimis dispositions. They dealt with individuals who are *pro se*, defending themselves, and helped them fill out a Green Sheet which explains their rights, what they were looking at for disposition, what our recommendations were, and what we thought the judge might do etc. It all gave them a good perspective with dealing with clients because even though they were prosecuting, their job was to see that justice was done."

When asked to characterize Western New England College law students, Howie describes them as possessing "home grown values, a strong work ethic, and a sense for giving back to the community and working for the community."

By and large Howie says, "The interns have been wonderful, not only for us, but for the system, for the community, and for the School of Law. It's been a great program. I really enjoyed the relationships. I retired officially last September, but I'm still working one day a week."

Through emails and other correspondence Howie keeps connected to scores of former interns. He says, "I get so many calls, emails, and requests for references, that I have taken photographs just to keep them all straight. It's so exciting to see them get through law school, pass the bar, and see their desires reach fruition. Many of these kids became personal friends of mine and are to this day, but the one thing that I'll miss most is that I'm not going to have any new connections. The process will be ongoing, but I've had to step back."

Alumni Called to Rally As Transformations Campaign Enters **Homestretch**



“A better, more competitive law school is good for the students, the community, and our alums.”

Dean Art Gaudio



It was just over a year ago on September 19, 2006, that the School of Law officially announced a comprehensive fundraising effort to support the \$5.5 million expansion and renovation of the School of Law building, as part of the College's \$20 million *Transformations: The Campaign for Western New England College*. It's now crunch time with the campaign within reach of the final goal necessary to receive the \$800,000 Kresge Challenge Grant. "Meeting the Kresge Challenge is critical to the School of Law because the Grant is earmarked for the School of Law renovation and expansion project," said Dean Art Gaudio. "Now more than ever we need our law alumni to lend their support in ensuring the future success of an institution that has meant so much to so many."

While there is great excitement as both the School of Law and the College approach their campaign goals, there is also a sense of urgency and a desire to reach out to additional alumni. As part of the final push, Dean Gaudio, Associate Dean Sam Stonefield, and Law Development Manager JoAnne O'Neil (pictured at left) have been on the road, telling the story of the recent developments at the School and the importance of the building renovation and expansion to its future. In addition, they have developed several special opportunities to recognize alumni and friends who have contributed to the campaign.

A Grand Idea: A Recognition Wall to Honor Donors

A focal point of the new entrance and lobby addition will be a donor recognition wall featuring the names of alumni and friends of the School of Law, or others they choose to honor, who have made a gift of \$1,000 or more.

"We're calling our promotion of the Wall, 'A Grand Idea,'" stated JoAnne O'Neil.

"The Wall provides an opportunity for alumni to become a permanent and visible part of the College's history," said O'Neil, who is overseeing outreach efforts to publicize this unique opportunity. "We've seen people make gifts for themselves or to honor a family member who attended. A current student recently made a gift to recognize several family members who attended before him. It is a wonderful way to honor family legacies and individual memories at Western New England College School of Law."

Other Special Recognition Opportunities

There are other special recognition opportunities as well, some based on areas of practice, some based on law school experiences, and others honoring School of Law professors. The renovations will add an Intellectual Property Law Room and a Real Estate Law Room to the third floor of the Law Library. Lawyers who practice in those specialties can support those rooms and be recognized there for pledges of \$2,500 and up. Alumni who want to support the clinical and public interest programs at the School of Law can pledge \$2,500 and up and will then be recognized in the Clinic House. Former *Law Review* members who

pledge \$5,000 will be recognized in the new Law Review Room.

Gifts and pledges for scholarships are also an important part of the law school campaign. Several alums have created named family scholarships (possible with donations at the \$25,000 level and above). Additionally, faculty and alums are seeking to raise \$100,000 to create special scholarships in honor of beloved former professors Norman Prance and Catherine Jones, with special places in the renovated building to recognize and honor these two outstanding educators.

Special Recognition Opportunities

\$5,000	Law Review Room
\$2,500	IP Room
\$2,500	Real Estate Room
\$2,500	Tax and Estate Planning Room
\$2,500	Moot Court Room
\$2,500	Clinic House
\$1,000 and up	Recognition Wall

Special Scholarships in honor of Professor Catherine Jones and Professor Norman Prance

Now is the Time

Associate Dean Stonefield said, "It's crunch time, and I know our alumni and friends who have not yet given will want to make sure that they are a part of our success. Now is the time they can truly make a difference."

As Dean Gaudio said while giving a tour of the renovations to a group of interested alums, "We're finishing the campaign with excitement and enthusiasm. We will continue to move the School of Law forward, and a better, more competitive law school is good for the students, the community, and our alums."

To make a gift to the Campaign, contact JoAnne O'Neil at 413-782-1523 or visit www.wnec.edu/campaign.



With progress, fundraising efforts take on greater urgency. The project cannot be completed until the entire \$5.5 million is raised.



The Road Less Traveled

A Career in Traffic Law Proves Just the Ticket for Jeffrey Levine '76

By Mary McLean Orszulak

The job market was tight when Bronx native Jeff Levine graduated from Western New England College School of Law and returned with his fiancé to NYC. "We had student loans to pay, so we moved back to New York because we figured our parents wouldn't let us starve. A week before the bar exam, I was looking through the want ads of the *New York Law Journal* and there were a couple of firms looking for admitted people. Only one had a phone number. So I called these guys who were counsel to a taxi credit union."

Levine was hired. In addition to helping cabbies obtain much-coveted NYC Taxi Medallions (then trading at \$120,000, and now costing about \$400,000), the firm represented clients in defense complaints before the taxi and limousine commission.

Levine had found his niche and it wasn't long before he decided to strike out on his own.

"I started the business in my spare bedroom with a \$500 dollar investment—you know—stationary, a second phone line, an answering machine, and mail drop. I did that for about four months until my wife came in one night and said, 'You seem to be doing very well. I'm really happy for you. Go get an office. I want to put a baby in this room.'"

Levine took an office with two young attorneys. When NYC Traffic Court moved to lower Manhattan, he did too, acquiring an office with a great harbor view. Then most of the building was converted to residential space; Levine lost his view but gained a high visibility location. He says, "Now, I have a great view of the pizza shop across the street. But, we're in a storefront adjacent to the Traffic Court

entrance. People going into court walk by and see us."

Levine has also kept a high profile on the Web, "I was the first guy in the business to have a website. I was an early adopter. I had been using the Internet before there was a World Wide Web when you had to type in the Unix prompt, sitting there with *Internet for Dummies* in my lap trying to find things. I created a simple webpage and then people started to call. Today, my firm owns the Traffic lawyer.com domain name. We serve a lot of people from all around the country who have been through New York and gotten violations, or people who used to live here and who have left a mess behind them."

Levine's distinctive practice has been featured in articles in the *New York Times* and the *Wall Street Journal*.

In most cases, Levine is able to save his clients the inconvenience of traveling to the city or losing time from work to appear in court as traffic violations in NYC require administrative and not criminal hearings. "Ninety percent of the time we represent people without them being there," says Levine, "but with criminal cases such as drunk or reckless driving, or driving with a suspended license, they have to be there."

Not all of Levine's clients will or should avoid penalties or convictions, but he feels there is an important obligation to offer them a vigorous defense. He contends, "Without a defense bar, our entire civil liberties would evaporate. I play a very important role in checking the power of the prosecution. If someone's guilty and the state can prove it within the scope of the law and the constitution they deserve to be punished. My job is to make sure that they are properly put to their proof."

In addition to his own staff, Levine retains a network of attorneys throughout the state.

As his practice has evolved, most of the cab business has been replaced by more complex cases. "Probably 75 percent of the time, we settle our cases in no less than two court appearances because otherwise the volume becomes unmanageable. We still do some cab work, we'll help anyone, but we're trying to do more interesting and profitable work."

He cites a recent case as an example. "We just finished an amazing job for a client. We got back a \$100,000 dump truck that the police department had seized."

According to Levine, the client had been doing construction work on the site of a restaurant property that he owned. Unfortunately, in New York City, it is legal to use your own trucks to haul in materials, but illegal to haul away trade waste. When a police officer noticed that a dump truck did not have the required license, the truck was impounded, and the owner was arrested and charged a \$5,000 fine.

"In New York City you can't run a waste disposal business without a license. It was a sort of anti-Sopranos sort of fashion started by the Guiliani Administration," says Levine.

Cutting through considerable red tape, Levine worked closely with the assistant district attorney to resolve the case, getting the owner and later the truck released, reducing the fine in half, and preparing to acquire the proper licensure.

Says Levine, "The client was so happy he sent us lunch from one of his restaurants. It's cases like that that make this work a lot of fun."



“I wanted to be a tax lawyer,” declares Jeffrey Levin, “so I took the full curriculum of tax courses. I spent two years studying with Professors Royal and Metzger. Then the Tax Reform Act of 1986 was passed, which made me a tax historian.”



Memories of a Mentor: Professor John Egnal

“John Egnal’s classes are improperly characterized,” observes Attorney Jeffrey Levine. “He teaches Civil Procedure and Conflicts of Laws. At the time, we didn’t understand that what he was actually teaching us was legal problem solving and analysis. He used civil procedure cases as his illustrations. We used to call it ‘egg-nalysis.’ It was only after I had gone through

Civil Procedure and muddled through it I think I figured out what he was doing. The things he taught me about legal analysis and reasoning have been instrumental.

“His exams were like a dialogue between the defense and the plaintiff’s lawyers. And what he taught was this: here’s where you look for your arguments—for the texts—for the

ambiguity. You look at the cases and at the amendments that have been made to the rules over subsequent years that created ambiguities. In doing so, you create a flow or stream of where to find your legal arguments. That was also very helpful and those are skills I still utilize. I think students sometimes underappreciate the value of what he has to teach.”

The Online Alumni Finder: Making Connections Graduate to Graduate

What if your client living part-time in Boca Raton needs advice on estate planning, but you are her divorce attorney? Or what if your long-time corporate client suddenly comes to you with a great invention and needs advice on applying for a patent and starting up his own company? Whatever your practice area, chances are clients, friends, and even family members approach you with legal questions that may be outside your realm of expertise. Where can you turn? To your fellow graduates of Western New England College School of Law listed in the Alumni Finder on the School's website.

Accessed through the Alumni webpage at www.law.wnec.edu/alumni, this free service enables you to search by specialty, geographic area, or name. It provides business information of the alumna/us in question as well as his or her email address for direct contact.

Beyond networking and referrals, the Alumni Finder is also a great way to reconnect with classmates and find old friends. You can use it to plan get-togethers in your area or coordinate attending your next class reunion or golf tournament together.

Attorney **R. Brent English '94**, a solo practitioner in New York City, has been using the Alumni Finder for the past three years. He focuses his practice on breach of contract litigation, bankruptcy, criminal defense, and issues facing the LGBT Community.

Recently, Brent turned to the Alumni Finder to help a friend of a current client. He says, "I am working on a partition action in New Jersey and a friend of my client had a similar matter that needed to be approached in Florida. The first thing I did was to go to the School's website. I contacted one alum who declined the case, but referred it to another alum that I know and who has been very helpful." Recently, he also was able to find a very competent alum in the South to represent a criminal defendant in Federal Court.

When the need for a referral arises, Brent thinks of the Alumni Finder first and over other online legal databases because he is confident in the skills and expertise of his fellow alumni.



"I loved and still love Western New England College School of Law," says Brent, "I got a great education there. I don't think that Western New England College alums get the recognition that we should, but I think our people are the cream of the crop. So my preference is to give the alums the business. Ultimately, I think Western New England College has produced many, many great attorneys."

For Attorney **Mark Kolber '76**, referencing the Law Alumni Finder has produced not only good contacts for his clients, but helped him reconnect with an old friend.

As an Attorney of Counsel for the Denver law firm of Jones & Keller, P.C., Mark focuses his practice on Banking and Financial Institutions, Intellectual Property, Commercial Litigation, and Aviation Law. Mark first used the database to locate local alumni in preparation for a regional reception. He recalls, "I had rejoined the Alumni Board and I wanted to see who was in the area for contact purposes."

Since then Mark has used the Alumni Finder periodically for referrals. But it was a recent request that led to a renewed acquaintance from his days in law school.

Mark says, "I have a client here in Colorado who received a notice that one of his customer's had filed for bankruptcy in Delaware. I went looking for local counsel on the site to see whom we have in bankruptcy in Delaware and I couldn't find anybody. Then I broadened the search to Pennsylvania and found my law school roommate, Gary Schildhorn '77."

"I hadn't been in touch with him since I left law school. It turns out he is a bankruptcy attorney with a Philadelphia firm. We didn't have to refer the case; he gave me some advice that allowed me to handle it myself from this end."

Concludes Mark, "I graduated in 1976 and I'm probably, in terms of the new School and people practicing in other states, about as old as you can get. If they can find me in Colorado, then I'm sure you can find somebody most any place in the country."

For questions about using the Law Alumni Finder, email Carol Thompson at cthompson@law.wnec.edu or call her at 413-782-1311.



Institute for Legislative and Governmental Affairs SUMMARY of PROGRAMS SUMMER 2007

At the conclusion of the 2007 spring semester, the Legislative Institute completed its sixth year of bringing worthwhile programs to the campus for the benefit of students, faculty, and the public. In addition to our Continuing Legal Education offerings, which draw large numbers of attorneys (discounted price for Western New England College graduates), and the semi-annual sitting of the Massachusetts Appeals Court, we sponsored other noteworthy events. The Appeals Court session drew many spectators and featured excellent arguments from members of the bar, including Assistant District Attorney Jane Montori '79. The bench included our own Judge William Meade '89, a recent appointment to the Appeals Court (see *Law Digest*, February 2007 for biography).

The Institute also brought to the campus two committees of the Massachusetts Legislature: the Joint Committee on Mental Health and Substance Abuse and the Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government. Since the first days of the Legislative Institute in 2000, we have hosted numerous hearings of our legislative committees. With the kind assistance of State Senator Gale Candaras '82, we are pleased to provide the constituents of western Massachusetts with the opportunity to observe the manner in which these committees operate. Local officials and private persons also have the opportunity to testify on matters of public importance at a location close to home. The time, distance, and expense of traveling to the State House to attend legislative hearings are disincentives to participate.

The Criminalization of Mental Health

The Joint Committee on Mental Health and Substance Abuse, which Senator Candaras and Representative Ruth Balser (D-Newton) cochair, covered a variety of subjects at its campus hearing in April. A focus was the "criminalization of mental health," as one expert called it. Witnesses testified that many persons who once resided in state mental health facilities ended up on the streets after release. The closing of Northampton State Hospital, for example, sent many patients into the general population, which exposed them to the consequences of antisocial behavior: arrest, conviction, and incarceration. Hampden County Sheriff Michael Ashe noted that the responsibility for treating such persons for their mental disabilities has now shifted to the criminal justice system.

Further the Joint Committee hearing addressed the issue of young people engaged in illegal drug use, which sometimes is a product of mental disorder, as witnesses stated. The legislative members heard very heartrending stories of young people who, without proper medical treatment, ended up committing or attempting to commit suicide. Without adequate programs to identify, diagnose, and treat such mental disabilities, the results can be disastrous for young people. Witnesses urged the Committee to provide greater funding and community treatment facilities in all parts of the state.

New Beginnings for Local Governments

In June, the Institute hosted a hearing of the Joint Committee on Municipalities and Regional Government. Chaired by Representative Sean Curran (D-Springfield), with House Committee Chair Vincent Pedone sitting. The focus of the hearing was Governor Deval Patrick's "Municipal Partnership Act." This bill is designed to forge a new relationship between state and local government, especially for cities and towns with special needs. Governor Patrick and local leaders have called for a new beginning, particularly for cities such as Springfield. His bill includes several provisions to give municipal leaders new tools to deal with budget issues, including local option taxes on restaurant meals and hotel stays, expanded access to the state's health and pension plans, and greater flexibility in municipal borrowing. Mayor Charles Ryan of Springfield testified generally in favor of the bill, noting that his city had already saved thousands of dollars with additional benefits to retirees by joining the state system.

Legal Fellows Work with Legislature

(At right) Erin Frazee, Institute Director Art Wolf, and Kevin Litz

Finally, the Institute also hosted two legal fellows from Siena College. The legal fellows program, unique in the United States, sends eight specially chosen students to four law schools to study for the summer. At our School of Law, the fellows engage in legal research, writing, and bill drafting on a topic of major public importance. Their research includes field interviews and visits to the Legislature in Boston. This past summer, Erin Frazee studied the issue of advance directives to address end of life decisions. Kevin Litz examined the question of driving while using a handheld cell phone. Members of our State Legislature will find the work of both interns to be quite helpful since they are or will be addressing these two important issues.



The Joint Committee on Mental Health: Sitting (L-R) Representatives Rosemary Sandlin, Ellen Story, John Scibak, Benjamin Swan, and Martin Walsh; House Chair Ruth Balser and Senate Chair Gale Candaras L'82; Senator Dianne Wilkerson; and Representatives Elizabeth Malia, Kay Khan, William Brownsberger, and Sean Curran. Pictured behind Rep. Balser are Attorney Michael Carr, Committee staff director, and Sarah Saunders, legislative director for Senator Candaras.

Entrepreneurs
Get Tips From
Experts at the

EXTREME Business Makeover

by Brendan Payne

Two aspiring local entrepreneurs took a step toward realizing their professional dreams as their business ideas were featured as part of the first Extreme Business Makeover hosted by the Western New England College Law and Business Center for Advancing Entrepreneurship on June 21, 2007.



Keshawn Dobbs



Hendalee Wilson G'05

Hendalee Wilson G'05, inventor of CellAssist, a device for cell phones to diagnosis auto problems; and Keshawn Dobbs, proprietor of the soon to be built Go 'Fore' It & Play indoor family entertainment center in Springfield received valuable insight on their businesses from experts in the fields of law, accounting, marketing, investing, banking, and organizational development.

"Car dealerships are our biggest competitor," explained Mr. Wilson to the panel. "You don't know what is going on back there. Hooking your car up to a computer costs so much money and is your problem going to be fixed?"

"Once you sell the product to the consumer, are there other revenue lines you could look for?" asked John M. O'Brien III '74, a CPA, Owner of J.M. O'Brien & Company, P.C., and Chair of the Western New England College Board of Trustees. "If you are traveling down I-291 and you find you have a problem with your car, the next question is 'where do you go?' Maybe you create a feature that service stations are willing to pay a fee so your customers are directed to those businesses. Creating multiple revenue sources beyond just the product is essential."

Following a recess for lunch, a group of new experts were brought in to analyze Go 'Fore' It & Play.

"There is a need in Springfield for family entertainment," said Mr. Dobbs. "This is a way to get our youth off the streets and make sure there is somewhere to go that is safe, fun, and low cost."

"I noticed in your business plan you talked about franchising out the food court," inquired Frederick D. Royal, Professor of Law and Director of the LL.M. Program at the School of Law. "Now as I understand it, you are thinking

about leasing it to some food vendors so you get away from all the franchising problems and the legal costs. I think that it is a far better way of doing it, keeping it local and not having to deal with a franchise.”

The other experts who provided know-how throughout the day were Deb King, Director, Springfield Business Incubator; Richard Kosakowski, a Partner in the law firm of O’Shea, Getz & Kosakowski, P.C.; Dianne Fuller Doherty, Regional Director and Management Counselor, Mass Small Business Development Center; Stan Kowalski III ’92, CEO, FloDesign; Glenn Hanson, Investor; Ravi Kulkarni, Business and Personal Coach; Janine Fondon, Publisher, *Unity First* Magazine; Paul Lambert, Vice President, Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame; Victor Woolridge, Managing Director, Babson Capital Management, LLC; and Jeff Sullivan, Executive Vice President and Chief Lending Officer, United Bank.

The Law and Business Center for Advancing Entrepreneurship was established to provide graduate business and law students with an opportunity to provide practical consultation to entrepreneurs starting new and building existing small businesses in the community. This initiative strengthens current alliances within the community to use the combined resources of our School of Law and School of Business to foster new business development.

For more information on upcoming events or to find out how your business can utilize the resources of the Law and Business Center, please contact Aimee Griffin Munnings ’03 at 413-736-8462 or amunnings@law.wnec.edu or visit www.law.wnec.edu/lawandbusiness.

THE LL.M. IN ESTATE PLANNING AND ELDER LAW

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2007-2008 Schedule of Events

Law and Business Center for Advancing Entrepreneurship

NOVEMBER

- 8 Information Session: Succession Planning for Small Businesses
13 Speaker Series: Dr. Fran Harris

JANUARY

- 10 Information Session: Business Investors
29 Speaker Series: Stephanie Chapparell

FEBRUARY

- 14 Information Session: Administrative Law Compliance

MARCH

- 28 How To Entrepreneurship Institute, Rivers Memorial Hall, all day

APRIL

- 8 Speaker Series: Michael Barr
10 Information Session: Franchising

All Speaker Series events are held at the S. Prestley Blake Law Center lobby beginning at 12:00 noon.
All Information Sessions are held at the Enterprise Center beginning at 12:00 noon.



ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS for SPRING 2008

For more information, contact Professor Frederick D. Royal, Program Director, at 800-782-6665 • 413-782-1422
www.law.wnec.edu/prospective/llm



SCHOOL OF LAW STUDENTS LEND A HELPING HAND TO



THE GULF COAST

SPRING BREAK SPENT VOLUNTEERING WITH THE STUDENT HURRICANE NETWORK AND THE MISSISSIPPI CENTER FOR JUSTICE

The School of Law's strong commitment to public service was on display this past March as over a dozen members of the Western New England College community traveled to the Gulf Coast region of Mississippi to offer their legal expertise in the ongoing Hurricane Katrina recovery.

While the envoy from the School of Law was not helping in the traditional sense of rebuilding houses or clearing debris, they did contribute in a very real sense by assisting residents in delicate and confusing legal matters, such as insurance claims, dealings with the federal government, and housing issues.

Stephanie Schlatter '07, who saw her own family lose its home in Mississippi during the August 2005 disaster, organized the trip. Schlatter has been instrumental on campus raising funds and awareness for the victims of this tragedy, and she led a group presentation on the Spring Break trip in April in the S. Prestley Blake Law Center lobby.

"Is there really justice for the people on the Gulf Coast?" asked Schlatter to open the presentation. "What we have found, for a lot of people there is not any justice, at least not as measured by traditional standards."

The School of Law contingent worked with two organizations: the Student Hurricane Network, a volunteer group that has enlisted the help of over 2,700 law students in the last two years to work on the issues of public housing, FEMA, the Army Corp of Engineers, workers rights, immigration issues, title transfers,

and wills in the Gulf Coast region; and the Mississippi Center for Justice, a private, nonprofit firm based in Jackson, MS, that had set up an emergency office in Biloxi with 40 lawyers 10 days after Katrina hit.

"It was a great opportunity to help some people and learn about the politics down there," said Eric Herr 2L. "The level of immersion that we actually reached far surpassed any of my expectations. We were in the middle of the public housing projects. Some were condemned homes where people were only living on the top stories because the bottom stories were flooded out. The level of devastation is still extremely shocking."

The School of Law delegation was stunned by the lack of redevelopment in the much less heralded Mississippi Gulf Coast region, which suffered just as much ruin as the New Orleans area.

"I think I went expecting to see what this natural tragedy had brought about," reflected Assistant Dean for Law Student Affairs Nancy Sykes '89. "What I found was that the tragedy was not the hurricane; the tragedy was the recovery."

Many of the people that the group worked with were grateful for the help, support, and caring expressed by the Western New England College community.

"I was nervous that people would not want to talk to us because they would feel like we were intruding," said Paula Zimmer, Assistant Dean and Director of Career Services. "Actually they

seemed to welcome us. They felt forgotten by the country. The fact that we were from Massachusetts made a huge difference; they couldn't believe we came down to see them."

Over a year and a half after the disaster, the focus in the Gulf Coast region and of the School of Law trip was issues of housing, especially for low-income residents.

"One of the things that stood out of all of this was that Mississippi no longer needs canned food and clothes," explained Dean Sykes. "Now they need housing and every level of income needs housing. So you can figure out which level is going to get the least."

The group helped several individuals in the communities of Biloxi, Gulfport, Ladner, and Waveland in dealing with government red tape and put them in contact with local civic groups that could continue to assist in their recovery.

Following the trip, the students and faculty returned to campus with an invigorated drive for their passion of public interest law and yet another area of the country saw firsthand the skill, professionalism, and caring of Western New England College School of Law.

As a result of this experience, the School of Law and its public interest community have committed to sponsoring an "Alternative Spring Break" trip in March 2008 also dedicated to a social justice project. Students, faculty, and staff will be contacting alums to support this trip.

BY BRENDAN PAYNE

CampusUPDATE

By David Stawasz

From April - August 2007



Rx for Success: College to Add School of Pharmacy

Planning is underway for the addition of a fifth school to join the College's Schools of Arts and Sciences, Business, Engineering, and Law. Recognizing the growing demand for pharmacists in the U.S., Western New England College will create a new School of Pharmacy. Plans call for the College to introduce a Pre-pharmacy program in 2009, with the Professional program starting in 2011, pending approval by the state and various accrediting agencies. The six-year program will give students both a strong pre-pharmacy base in math and science as well as prepare them for careers in pharmacology with a doctoral degree. The School of Pharmacy will also install new faculty and administrators, and add a new academic building that will provide additional space for the Departments of Physical and Biological Sciences and Psychology. To accommodate the growing number of students living on campus, a new apartment-style residence hall will be built.

New Undergraduate Programs Join College Offerings

As the educational needs of students change, the College continues to add to its offerings. Undergraduates can take advantage of new accelerated combined degree programs, where students earn both a bachelor's and master's degree, giving them a distinct advantage in the job market while saving time and tuition costs. Programs include the Five-year Bachelor/MBA degree, the Five-year Bachelor/MSA degree, and the Six-year Biomedical Engineering/Law degree.

The College has also added a Forensic Biology major for undergraduates. The program will help meet the need for forensic biologists as lab technology continues to develop new advances for linking criminals to crime scenes. The Forensic Biology major joins the College's Forensic Chemistry program in combining criminal justice and the sciences.



Honoring Teaching Excellence

Dr. Sharianne Walker was presented the Excellence in Teaching Award at the undergraduate level. Walker is the Chair of the Sport Management Department in the School of Business. Called a dedicated, caring, and extremely talented educator by her students, Walker was hailed as a leader in the academic development of students and the well-being of the campus community.



Board of Trustees Welcomes New Members

The Western New England College Board of Trustees recently welcomed five new members. Joining new Law Alumni Trustee Robert E. Salad L'83 (see page 3) are Edwin W. Lindsay '78, Dr. Linda M. L. Peters G'96, Peter Steingraber L'84, and Tyler G. Campbell '07. Lindsay is a senior vice president for TNT marketing and a member of the College's Downes Athletic Hall of Fame. Dr. Peters earned her M.B.A. from Western New England College and is currently a member of the faculty at the Isenberg School of Management at the University of Massachusetts. Steingraber, who just completed a two-year term as Law Alumni Trustee, is a developer for the Commonwealth Development Group in Norwood, MA. Lindsay, Peters, and Steingraber will serve three-year terms on the Board, while Campbell will serve a one-year term as Alumni Trustee. An active member of student government, Campbell graduated with a degree in Sport Management.

Klepacki Named National Coach-of-the-Year



Capping a record-breaking season for the Western New England College men's lacrosse team, John Klepacki was named the United States Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association (USILA) Division III Coach-of-the-Year. Klepacki guided the Golden Bears to a 17-1 record, including a Pilgrim League title and a spot in the quarterfinals of the NCAA Division III Tournament. The team finished the

year ranked third in the nation. Klepacki is believed to be the first Golden Bears' coach ever to receive a National Coach-of-the-Year Award.



Athletics Joins New Conference

Fans of the College's athletic teams will notice some changes in scheduling this year, as the College officially joined The Commonwealth Coast Conference in September. Sixteen of the 19 Golden Bear teams will compete for conference championships, with football, hockey, and wrestling retaining their current affiliations. The Commonwealth Coast Conference is comprised of 14 private institutions from across New England. The conference has located its Commissioner's Office on the Western New England College campus.



(L-R) Erin Runnion, Lois Smart, and Ed Smart

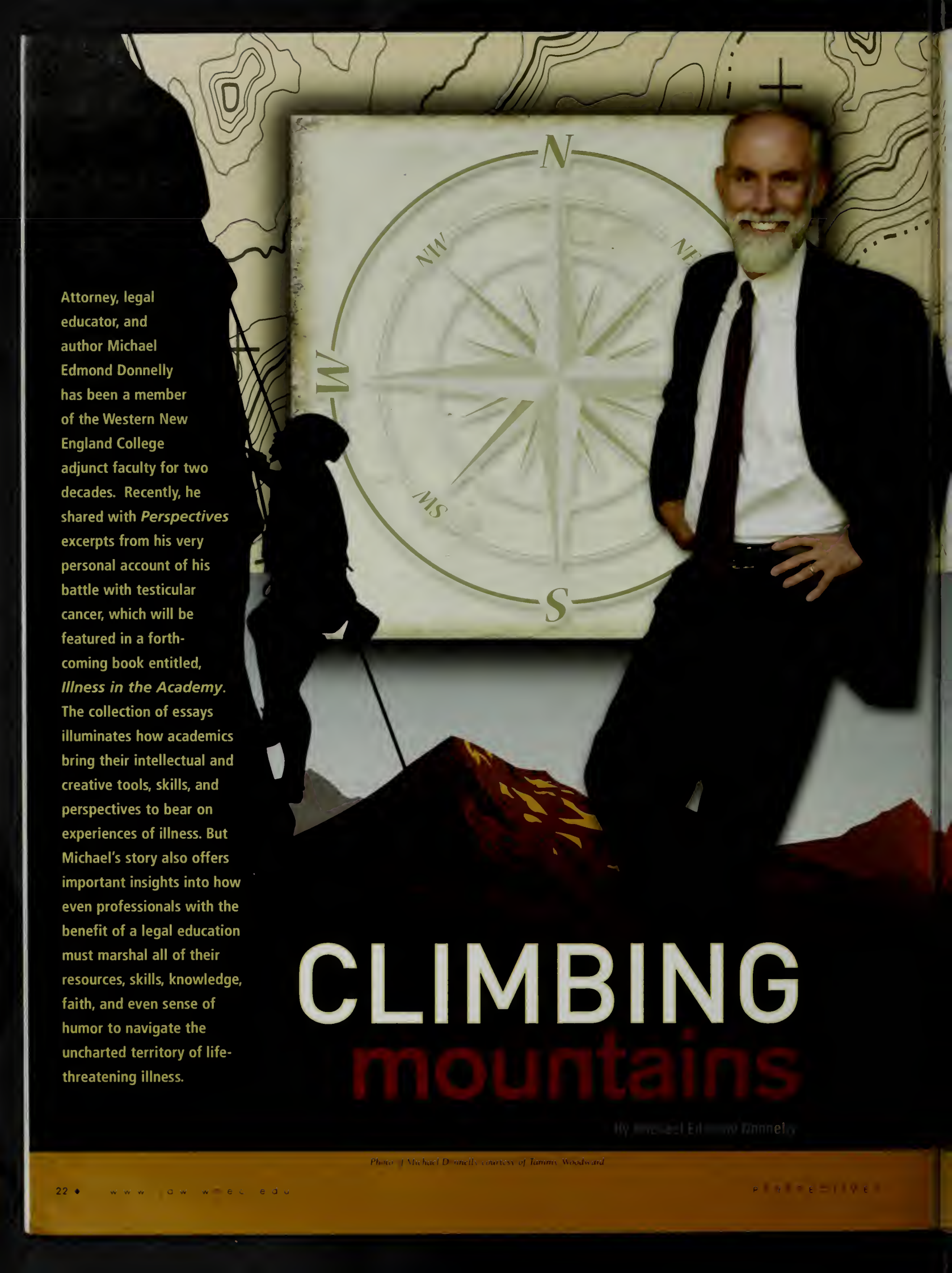
Expanding Possibilities for Children

In recognition of National Missing Children's month in May, the College brought together leading experts on children's safety for a conference titled "Possibilities: Creating a Safer Future for Our Children." The two-day event offered training and information to law enforcement officers, educators, social workers, parents, and anyone concerned with the health and safety of our nation's children. Experts drawn from across the country, including Ed and Lois Smart, John and Magi Bish, Erin Runnion, and Western New England College faculty and staff, shared lessons on how communities can work together to create a safer world for children. The conference is part of the College's ongoing partnership with the radKIDS Personal Empowerment Safety Education program.



Greetings From Guatemala: Students Help Make a Difference in Central America

Final exams had just ended when Assistant Professor of Management Bruce Clemens and 10 of his students embarked on a life-changing journey—traveling to Guatemala to help improve the water supply for people in the country's western highlands. While Clemens has more than three decades of experience in the area, this was his first time bringing a group from Western New England College. "I feel incredibly fulfilled as an instructor," said Clemens. "The students went above and beyond the call of duty. Their enthusiasm, especially in light of the sometimes trying circumstances, was excellent." Students spent the spring semester learning about the management and engineering challenges in the region, and then put that knowledge to work by taking part in a variety of projects including water distribution, road construction, and reforestation.



Attorney, legal educator, and author Michael Edmond Donnelly has been a member of the Western New England College adjunct faculty for two decades. Recently, he shared with *Perspectives* excerpts from his very personal account of his battle with testicular cancer, which will be featured in a forthcoming book entitled, *Illness in the Academy*. The collection of essays illuminates how academics bring their intellectual and creative tools, skills, and perspectives to bear on experiences of illness. But Michael's story also offers important insights into how even professionals with the benefit of a legal education must marshal all of their resources, skills, knowledge, faith, and even sense of humor to navigate the uncharted territory of life-threatening illness.

CLIMBING mountains

By Michael Edmond Donnelly

Photo of Michael Donnelly courtesy of Tammy Woodward

With Candor, Humor, and a Legal Mindset, Adjunct Professor Michael Donnelly Recounts His Personal Healthcare Odyssey

In the spring of 1998, I was preparing to return to my favorite sport, mountain climbing. It had been over 20 years since I had actively climbed, in which time I had completed law school, started to practice law, and with my wife, Mary Frances Kingsley, who is also an attorney, started to raise our family of Katherine, now age 19, and Peter, now age 15. In that earlier time, I had been a mountain climbing instructor for Outward Bound, and had climbed the Rockies of Colorado, the Smokies of North Carolina, and the Tetons of Wyoming. Mary Frances and the children had given me a great Christmas gift, a course in technical rock climbing that I would begin in late spring. I knew that I had to get back in shape to keep up with a crew of active 20-year-old climbers. To do that, my training of choice was long distance running and jumping rope.

As I started to run and, in particular, jump rope, a persistent pain developed in my upper back.

After a number of sessions with doctors from a local sports clinic telling me that this was only a muscle pull and nothing else, I had had it. I made arrangements for a thoracic MRI. Ever the lawyer, I directed that the MRI results be sent not just to the sports clinic, but also to my primary physician, a friend of some years.

The phone call that morning from my primary physician was troubling. The MRI revealed either a serious infection or some sort of tumor on T7 of my spine.

Court that morning seemed to drag by as I prepared for another meeting with the doctors at sports medicine. The advice of my primary physician and other lawyer friends was simply, in no uncertain terms, to demand action on that day. The doctors' advice just to go home and deal with this all on another day came as no surprise.

The humor in this situation comes back to me as I write this article. I stood in the sports medicine examining room in my best black wing tips, more or less enshrouded in a green paper jonnies that failed to cover my exposed backside. As I stood there in this outfit, I asked the doctor if he had read the MRI report. I noted that I was aware of what was in the report and that he was damn well not going to just send me home. I had just "made a scene" over getting correct medical care and the world had stopped spinning. For a moment, I could picture the hospital security officers being summoned and their less-than-ceremonious arrest of me in my black wing tips and green paper jonnies for disturbing the peace and trespassing on hospital grounds. I could also picture my arraignment back at the courthouse; that truly was a possibility to ponder.

The wheels of reason fortunately kicked back into operation. Justice was served and I was not arrested, though I did prevail. With newfound determination, I marched my doctor and me upstairs to the cancer unit and the chief of oncology announcing that I had "arrived to be admitted."

Clearly, one should never argue with a man wearing only black wing tips and a green jonnies, and the wise chief of oncology agreed, promptly admitting me.

A cancer mass had been detected on Michael's spine and he was admitted to the hospital. He began radiation and steroid treatment to shrink it.

In this decision, and in all others, my wife, who kept a spiral notebook of all of my meetings with the doctors, became a vital advocate for my cure. I cannot over-emphasize the importance of having another person available to support a patient in this kind of situation. As a lawyer, Mary Frances would politely, but firmly, ask questions about drug dosages, test procedures, and a hundred other factors of treatment that I was unable to ask, as I was either in bed or too tired to think of them. It quickly became clear that Mary Frances' keen questioning, cheerful disposition, and notebook were having a significant effect on my treatment process. People in the hospital were alert to explaining what they proposed in treatment and, at this stage, diagnosis. The fact that we were both lawyers was not missed. Let me also note that, in my judgment, we were careful not to misuse our professional positions; we were merely aware that our professions made a difference in how information was presented to us.

My legal training came to be of greatest value when I had been in the hospital for several days. During this period, no diagnosis had been made and the doctors started to talk about discharging me without diagnosis. At this point, we called a meeting of all the medical team, which had grown in number since I was a hard case to figure out. In the meeting, I made it clear that (A) I was not leaving the hospital until we had a diagnosis and (B) that we needed all the staff to work together to reach a diagnosis. The meeting was more like a business meeting, with Mary Frances asking oncologists and radiologists questions and taking notes, while I reminded everyone that there had been some confusion before in sports medicine and that this was not going to happen again. I put on my crazy game face, whereas Mary Frances was professional and welcoming. It worked. I stayed in

the hospital and a new series of tests and a medical case conference were to be held. The intervention of a senior hospital staff member who was a friend of mine calmed the hospital staff and helped to resolve this conflict in a positive way. In hindsight, this was our most important moment, as it focused the medical team toward rethinking the diagnosis and convinced my wife and me that we were not helpless at this time; we could be active participants in my care. Our legal training shaped our handling of that meeting, and our responses were consistent with our styles in handling cases in our respective practices. We fell back on our training as lawyers educated in critical analysis, negotiation skills, and advocacy for our position, and all of these skills worked for us.

The results of the meeting led to further tests to see if the tumor was secondary to testicular cancer. That diagnosis proved correct and Michael began a treatment regimen that included radiation, a partial orchiectomy, and chemotherapy.

It was then that it happened: I went into severe steroid psychosis. I knew something was afoot when I started to obsess about people intending to kill me and to worry that breaking glass from windows and tabletops could kill me.

I still remember that feeling from the steroids, with their power to wipe away all logical thought and literally drive a person mad. I now keep that experience in mind when I prosecute drug cases or propose treatment as part of a disposition in a drug case.

When I consider the treatment experience of that year, I am pleased that I can laugh about so much, but I still remember the terror and loss of control. I am convinced that my legal training played a crucial role in my ability to negotiate my care and in actually getting better. So did my teaching.

I have changed as a person and as an attorney through the experience of that year. I am happier about what I can do for people as a lawyer, because I remember what it was like to be out of control, afraid of dying, or just plain sick from the chemotherapy. Things happen in ways that just can't be predicted. But remembering what carried me through difficulties like cancer—family, friends, faith, and profession—can be great sources of strength.

This essay also appears in its entirety in *Illness in the Academy*, a collection of pathologies of academics, published by Purdue University Press.

FACULTY & STAFF NOTES



Bridgette Baldwin, Assistant Professor of Law, presented a paper entitled "Cultural Pluralism Revisited: The Case for the Criminal Defendant" at the 2007 Joint Annual Meeting of the Law and Society Association and the Research Committee on Sociology of Law (International Sociological Association) at Humboldt University in Berlin, Germany. The theme of the conference was Law and Society in the 21st Century: Transformations, Resistances, Futures. Professor Baldwin also presented a paper at Northeastern University for the Law, Policy, and Society Department entitled "Wisconsin Works?: Race, Gender and Accountability in the Workforce Era."



Erin Buzuvis, Assistant Professor of Law, made two presentations to the Title IX Academic & Legal Conference in Cleveland called "Girls & Women Rock: Celebrating 35 Years of Sport & Title IX." Professor Buzuvis' first presentation, "Survey Says" was about the Department of Education's new policy for measuring athletic departments' Title IX compliance using interest surveys. Her second presentation, "Reading the Pink Locker Room" used discourse about a college football controversy to analyze the relationship between football culture and Title IX. She also presented at the conference at Hofstra Law School called "Sticky Cultural Norms: The Transformative Potential of Title IX." Professor Buzuvis contributed observations about Title IX to National Public Radio's *Justice Talking* program about gender inequality, and also contributes to a daily blog about Title IX.



Tina Wescott Cafaro, Associate Clinical Professor of Law, was a member of the panel at a forum sponsored by the Springfield Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and Western New England College and Western New England College School of Law entitled "A Jump Start to Justice: A Community Informational Forum on the Criminal Justice System." The program was aimed at Springfield's youth to help them make smart, informed choices regarding their interaction with the criminal justice system.



Lauren Carasik Associate Clinical Professor of Law, authored "Justice in the Balance: An Evaluation of One Clinic's Ability to Harmonize Teaching Practical Skills, Ethics, and Professionalism with a Social Justice Mission" for the *Southern California Review of Law and Social Justice*.



William G. Childs, Assistant Professor of Law, was a presenter at the Defense Research Institute Toxic Torts Conference in New Orleans and also presented at the Defense Research Institute's Annual Meeting.



Eric Gouvin, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Professor of Law, together with Aimee Griffin Munnings '03, the Director of the Law and Business Center for Advancing Entrepreneurship and Dr. Harlan Spotts, Professor of Marketing at the School of Business, planned and coordinated the Second Annual Interdisciplinary Conference on Community Economic Development at the School of Law. The conference brought together an internationally known group of scholars, practitioners, and policy makers to discuss issues of importance to people concerned about the economic well-being of our cities. Dean Gouvin moderated a panel on "fringe banking" and the impact of such financial services providers as check-cashing facilities and rent-to-own businesses have on inner-city populations. Dean Gouvin also spent time in Paris, France, teaching a course in Comparative Corporate Law at the University of Paris X (Nanterre). The course was part of the Summer Abroad program cosponsored by the University of Paris and Golden Gate University School of Law. While in Paris, Dean Gouvin assembled a panel on Executive Compensation consisting of himself; Christopher Mensooh, partner at Hughes, Hubbard's Paris office; Sabine Lochman, General Counsel for



Arthur Gaudio, Dean and Professor of Law, traveled to Tokyo, Japan, at the request of the American Bar Association (ABA) to inspect the Santa Clara summer program held there.



Leora Harpaz, Professor of Law, presented "The First Amendment Goes to School: Sunshine Week 2007," a workshop for teachers in conjunction with *The Republican's* Newspaper in Education program. Professor Harpaz also taught a workshop entitled "Do Student First Amendment Rights Apply to Classroom Assignments?" at the Fifth Annual Commonwealth Education Law Conference in Williamsburg, VA.

Johnson & Johnson France; and Professor Koen Byttebier of the Free University of Brussels. The panel was moderated by Dean Gouvin's coteacher, Thierry Aballea of the law firm APA Partners in Paris. Dean Gouvin also presented a paper at City University in London, England, at a conference entitled "Once Upon a Legal Time: Developing the Skills of Storytelling in Law." Dean Gouvin's panel was composed of fellow authors of chapters from the upcoming book *Harry Potter and the Law*. Dean Gouvin's chapter for that book, "The Magic of Money and Banking," formed the nucleus of his talk at the conference. The book will be published by Carolina Academic Press. At the American Bar Association Annual meeting in San Francisco, Dean Gouvin was named as cochair of the Committee on Business Law Education of the Business Law Section of the ABA. He shares that duty with Tina Stark of Emory University Law School. Dean Gouvin's article "Bank Mergers in North America: Comparing the Approaches in the United States and Canada," has been reprinted in a book entitled *Bank Mergers: The Global Scenario*, edited by Jayshree Bose and published by ICFAI Books.

While teaching in Paris last summer, Associate Dean Eric Gouvin; his wife, Elizabeth Lovejoy LLM '07 (middle); daughter Lucy; and son, Joe (middle); spent time with Lauren Elliot '96/LLM '07 (second from left); and her partner, Dianne Hayes (far left).



Barbara A. Noah, Associate Professor of Law, moderated a panel on race disparities in health at the annual Health Law Professors Conference, hosted by Boston University School of Law.



Barbara A. West, Associate Dean for Library and Information Resources, was the coordinator and moderator for a program at the annual meeting of the American Association of Law Libraries in New Orleans. The program was entitled "Rise to the Challenge of Publishing." She will also be the chair of the Placement Committee for the American Association of Law Libraries.

FACULTY & STAFF IN THE MEDIA



William Childs	5/1/2007	<i>Med Ad News</i>	Drug Company Liability
Arthur Gaudio	3/9/2007 3/21/2007	WGGB-TV 40 <i>The Republican</i>	Online Law Forums Real Estate Laws
Arthur Leavens	8/8/2007 7/27/2007 7/27/2007	<i>The Republican</i> <i>Asphalt Contractor</i> <i>Christian Science Monitor</i>	Teaching Excellence Award Big Dig Liability Big Dig Liability
Bruce Miller	3/13/2007	<i>Connecticut Post</i>	Freedom of Information
Aimee Griffin Munnings	2/25/2007 7/12/2007 8/20/2007	<i>The Republican</i> <i>The Republican</i> <i>Mass Lawyers Weekly</i>	Entrepreneurship Entrepreneurship Up & Coming Lawyers
Giovanna Shay	7/2/2007	<i>National Law Journal</i>	Supreme Court
Sam Stonefield	8/28/2007	WHYN AM	Attorney General Resignation
Paula Zimmer	3/7/2007	<i>The Republican</i>	Katrina Relief Trip



Arthur Leavens Named Professor of the Year

by Patricia Gagnon

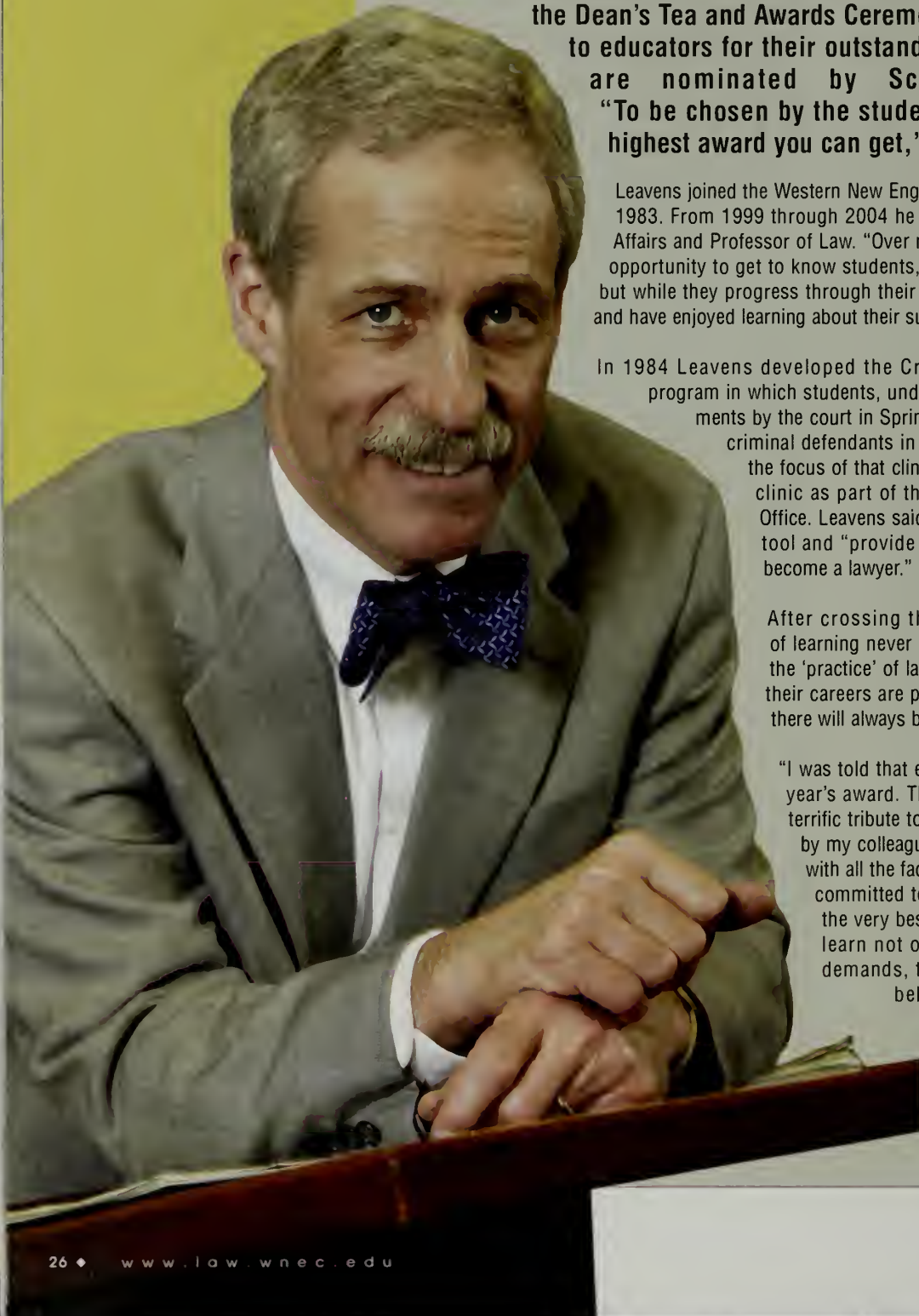
"I am thrilled and deeply honored," replied Professor Arthur Leavens when asked his thoughts about receiving the 2007 Catherine J. Jones Professor of the Year Award. The award was presented to Leavens last spring at the Dean's Tea and Awards Ceremony, and is presented annually to educators for their outstanding contributions. Recipients are nominated by School of Law students. **"To be chosen by the students—in my judgment it's the highest award you can get,"** said Leavens.

Leavens joined the Western New England College School of Law faculty in July 1983. From 1999 through 2004 he served as Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Professor of Law. "Over my 24 years of teaching here I've had the opportunity to get to know students, not just as they receive their education, but while they progress through their careers. I've kept in touch with students and have enjoyed learning about their success," Leavens said.

In 1984 Leavens developed the Criminal Law Clinic, which began as a program in which students, under faculty supervision, accepted appointments by the court in Springfield District Court to represent indigent criminal defendants in the prosecutions against them. In 1991, the focus of that clinic was changed to become a prosecution clinic as part of the Hampden County District Attorney's Office. Leavens said the clinics present a wonderful teaching tool and "provide a bridge from which a law student can become a lawyer."

After crossing that bridge, Leavens said the process of learning never ends. "It's not by accident that it's called the 'practice' of law," he emphasized. "Lawyers throughout their careers are practicing at it and I tell my students that there will always be more to learn throughout their lives.

"I was told that everyone on the faculty got votes for this year's award. That says a lot about our faculty and is a terrific tribute to the quality of teaching that goes on here by my colleagues," Leavens said. He is honored to work with all the faculty at the School of Law who he said are committed to their students in helping them become the very best in their profession. "I want students to learn not only what this profession requires and demands, to know what law is, but also how one behaves as a lawyer—intellectually and ethically. I have asked them to rise to these standards and not settle for something less," Leavens said.



School of Law Welcomes New Faculty Member



Giovanna Shay Named Assistant Professor of Law

The School of Law added another talented member to its prestigious faculty this fall as Giovanna Shay joined the staff as an Assistant Professor of Law.

Professor Shay comes to Western New England College after serving as the Robert M. Cover Clinical Teaching Fellow at Yale Law School, where she also earned her J.D. in 1997. Prior to beginning her teaching career, Professor Shay worked as a staff attorney at the Public Defender Service for DC and as the Director of Development and General Counsel at See Forever and the Maya Angelou Public Charter School. She has also held posts as a Soros Justice Fellow at the ACLU National Prison Project and as law clerk for Senior Justice Ellen Ash Peters at the Connecticut Supreme Court.

Professor Shay owns an impressive list of scholarly work, penning "More Stories of Jurisdiction-Stripping and Executive Power: The Supreme Court's Recent Prison Litigation Reform

Act Cases," (with Yale alumna Johanna Kalb) for the *Cardozo Law Review* and "Manson v. Brathwaite Revisited: Towards a New Rule of Decision for Due Process Challenges to Eyewitness Identification Procedures," (with Timothy P. O'Toole) for the *Valparaiso University Law Review*.

Most recently she collaborated with Kalb to publish "Detainees and Habeas: D.C. Court Reform's Role," in the *National Law Journal*, July 2, 2007. Writing with Margo Schlanger of Washington University, St. Louis, Shay published "Preserving the Rule of Law in America's Prisons: The Case for Amending the Prison Litigation Reform Act," an issue brief for the *American Constitutional Society*, March 29, 2007, and "Legally-Sanctioned Negligence," an article on *TomPaine.com*, March 23, 2007.

Professor Shay earned her B.A. from Pomona College in 1993 and a M. Phil. from Cambridge University in 1995.

by Brendan Payne

BIDDING FAREWELL to One Class and WELCOMING ANOTHER

Commencement 2007

School of Law Dean Art Gaudio had a simple message for the graduates of the class of 2007, "Do good as you do well."

Harkening back to the School's commitment to public interest, Dean Gaudio reminded the 163 graduates that doing good and enjoying a successful career are not mutually exclusive.

"When you are in your careers, use the privilege and the power of that diploma wisely and generously," advised Dean Gaudio to a packed house at Springfield Symphony Hall on May 19, 2007. "There will be clients who will pay you very well for your services. However, there will be some clients who can't afford it, but nevertheless need that help. Please, be a professional and be generous."

Aside from the normal duty of addressing the new graduates of the School of Law's J.D.



program, Dean Gaudio was also afforded the historic honor of being the first dean to preside over a Commencement ceremony of students receiving an LL.M. degree. Six students received their LL.M. in Estate Planning and Elder Law as the first graduating class from the program.

The Honorable James M. Rosenbaum, the Chief Judge for the U.S. District Court, District of Minnesota, served as the commencement speaker. In his address to the graduates, Judge Rosenbaum opined about the magnitude of the rule of law and its dependence on an independent judiciary.



"One of the hallmarks of the culture you have now joined, its sterling guideposts, is the rule of law," said Judge Rosenbaum. "The definition of rule of the law is almost impossible to achieve. For our purpose, it means that the law

commands the persons' or the entities' respect, not the people who are in charge or who officiate. It also means there are rules and the rules are consistently applied, one set of standards from day to day, not one kind of justice for one person than for another. This rule of law is recognized as one of the great contributions to enlightened thought.

"My message to you, is that you are now heir to the duties and responsibilities that flow from your membership in this common culture and your dedication to the rule of law. I would ask you, I would enlist you in joining and protecting the independent judiciary, one of our nation's most important, and in its way, one of our most fragile institutions."

Visit www.law.wnec.edu for more photos from Commencement and www.wnec.edu/commencement for profiles on where several of our graduates are headed.



Elizabeth Rodriguez-Ross '07



Jason Massey '07, Kathryn Mecklenburger '07, and Tania Medina '07

By Brendan Payne

Lt. Governor Headlines Convocation Ceremony

Tim Murray '94 Returns to Alma Mater to Address Faculty and Students

IN THE SHADOW OF THE CONSTRUCTION of the new wing of the S. Prestley Blake Law Center, the School of Law community gathered to mark the official opening to another academic year under sunny skies at the fourth annual Law Convocation. Massachusetts Lt. Governor and School of Law graduate Tim Murray '94 served as the keynote speaker for the event on August 28, 2007.

School of Law Dean Art Gaudio opened the festivities by offering words of encouragement for the students in attendance. "An academic convocation at a law school can be much more than merely a calling together of the members of our legal academy. It can also be an opportunity to motivate and inspire us in the traditions of the legal profession."

The Lt. Governor then took the podium to share his thoughts on the education he received at Western New England College. "The legal and the judicial worlds are inherently arenas of conflict. It is vital for good lawyers to understand that arguments in the courtroom or the boardroom or on the floor of a town meeting or at city hall can be hard fought, but still done with the dignity of the people involved and a respect for the law. The culture at the School of Law helps enforce that ethic and it's one that I know has helped me in many ways in terms of how I practice law and how I've engaged in the political arena to tackle difficult, often emotionally charged problems."

The lunchtime celebration wrapped up with a reception in the Law Center lobby where students had an opportunity for one-to-one interaction with the Commonwealth's second highest leader.



Keynote speaker Massachusetts Lt. Governor Tim Murray '94



Ray Keane '07 and little one



Brian Heisman '07/G'07



Elizabeth Ho Sing '07 and Elwyn Brewster Quirk '07



College President Anthony S. Caprio, Hon. James A. Rosenbaum, and Dean Arthur R. Gaudio



Ben Bristol '07, Meghan Liljedahl '07, Mario Arena '07, Bridgid Murray '07

Alumni News

By Mary McLean Orszulak

Local alumni came out to support the home team at Fenway Park when the World Series Champion Red Sox beat the Chicago White Sox, 11-2, on July 21, 2007. The trip drew 55 alumni, faculty, and staff who enjoyed a great game and great company catching up with friends and classmates.

Be sure to order your tickets early next Spring through the Office of Law Alumni Relations. Watch *Perspectives* and the *Law Digest* for details!

Red Sox Rule



New Law Association Board Approved

Our alumni have unanimously approved the slate of candidates of new directors to the Law Alumni Board for a 2007-2010 term. They include: Rebecca Proakis '99, Christine Webster '98, Anita Sarro '83, Linda Fakhoury '04, Ina Forman '84, and Marne Onderdonk '94. Marc Paquette '01 is the Board President.



(L to R) Dean Art Gaudio, Rebecca Proakis '99, Brooke Soper (student rep), Amy Megliola '02, Archer Battista '77, Jeff Morneau '98, Cynthia Ellis '81, Rosemary Hoag '95, Marc Paquette '01, Ina Forman '84, Nina Daratsos '93, Anita Sarro '83, Victor Meir '96, Marne Onderdonk '94, Christine Webster '98, Hank Meyer '76, Linda Fakhoury '04, Assistant Dean Sam Stonefield, Gautam Sen '02. Missing from picture: Kathleen Porter '90, Paul Mancinone '92, and Peter Morin '84.

Advance Your Skills Through Continuing Legal Education

The Institute for Legislative and Governmental Affairs cosponsors Continuing Legal Education (CLE) programs for alumni and other members of the bar with the assistance of the Western Massachusetts State Bar Association (MBA) and The Office of Alumni Relations.

Upcoming programs include:

- 6th Annual Bankruptcy Seminar
- Current Issues in Medicare
- E-Discovery
- Employment
- Immigration
- Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Writing for the Courts
- Lawyers in Transition

For dates and details, please visit the School of Law website calendar at www.law.wnec.edu/alumni.

Did you Know?

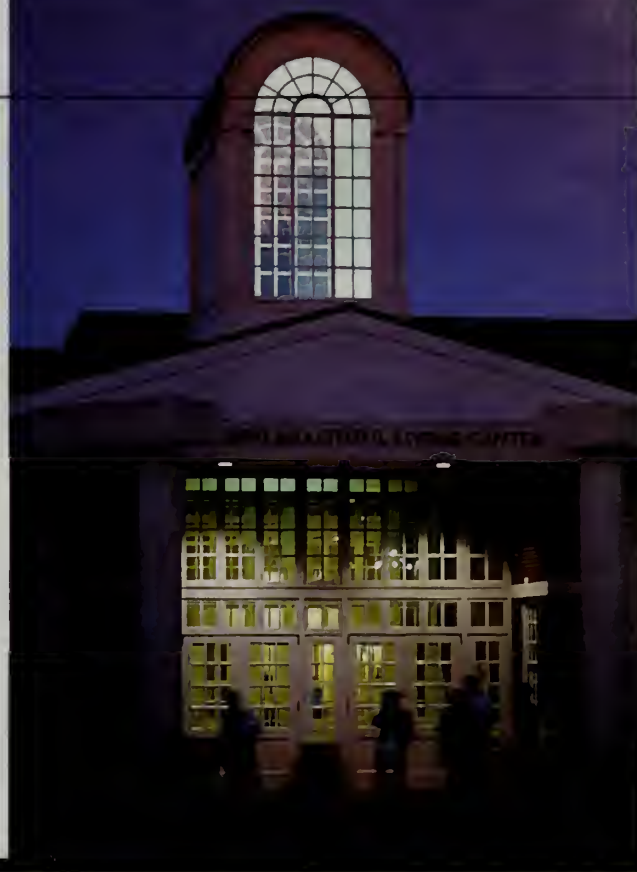
Alumni can use the Law Library free of charge.

Alumni can use the Alumni Healthful Living Center free of charge.

Alumni can receive discounts on car insurance.

These are just a few of the many benefits available to alumni of Western New England College.

To learn more or obtain an Alumni Association I.D. card, visit www.law.wnec.edu/alumni or call 413-782-1311.



Class of 2007 Joins Ranks of Proud Law Graduates

Western New England College School of Law congratulates these members of the Class of 2007, wishes them the best in all their future endeavors, and welcomes them to the Law Alumni Association.

Master of Laws

Lauren Jeanne Elliott
Kelley Galica-Peck
Barbara L. Hawley
Elizabeth Louise Lovejoy
Patricia Ann McChesney
Margot Nicholas Parrot

Juris Doctor

Richard Alexander Abbott
Molly Elizabeth Albano
Jane Lee Albrecht
Mario Richard Arena
Soonja Bae**
Corey George Bakken
Beth Lauren Barnhard
Maria Teresa Barroso
Jesmin K. Basanti
Deborah Nadine Bertos
Teresa Bogacz**
Nancy Chapman Boone
George Everett Bourguignon Jr.†
Benjamin A. Bristol
Max Robert Brown
Christopher Joseph Buno
Scott Bryan Burg
Brian Patrick Cahillane**†
Dennis Connelly Carroll
Christian George Christovich
Christine Marie Conley
Roger Parnell Cullen
Michael Thomas Cupoli III
Kristina da Fonseca†
Nicholas William Daviau
Michael D. DeMeola†
Lisa Ann Denault

Robert Michael Dennis
Amanjot Singh Dhaliwal
Brett Francis Dillon
Timmery Ann Donahue†
Paul Emanuel Dorsey†
Matthew B. Drexler**†
Teresa Ann Drexler
Mary-Elizabeth Dupelle
Lindsay Lorraine Dupuy
Cat Brenn Dvar†
Rebecca Lynn Ehrenberg
Michael Raymond Einig†
Neal Edward Eriksen†
Christina Leigh Falco
Ilene Wendi Fine
Patrick Lee Fitzpatrick
John William Forlenza
Christopher T. Foster
Matthew Thomas Foster
Roxanne Victoria Franklin*
Nathan Earl Frommer
Mary Elizabeth Gallant
Margaret Elizabeth Gilmartin
Christopher Michael Gorman
Anthony Domenic Gulluni
Wheatly Rose Gulmi-Landy
Yoshimasa Haramo**
Vincent D. Hayeck
Zev Ari Hechtman**
Brian James Heisman
Elizabeth Danielle Ho Sing
Mark Edward Holmes
Kristin Renee Huey
Anne Barnes Hulick
Catherine Elizabeth Irwin
JooRi Kim Johnson

Alexander Joseph Kalife
Raymond George Keane
Paul Anthony Keats III
Matthew Scott Kelley
Tracy Melinda Kellogg
Isaac David Keppler
Darcie Leigh Kern
Tracie M. Kester††
Hae Jung Alice Kim
Nicholas R. Kimball
Jason Matthew Kittler
Kelly Anne Koch
Alyson Christine Kraus†
Richard I. Kravetz
Patricia Lynn Learned
Alexandra Stella Lee
MaryBeth Murchie LeFevre
Sarah Anne Leggio**
Anna Gabrielle Levine
Meghan Elizabeth Liljedahl
Jeffrey Richard Lindequist††
Julie Stephens Low†
Beth Ann Lux†
Jonathan Saul Mack
Christian Anthony Malanga†
Benjamin Prescott Mann
Gary B. Mantolesky
Meggan Lizabeth Martin**
Jason Thomas Massey
Kathryn Gail Mecklenburger
Tania Celeste Medina
Jeremy Andrew Michael
Daniel H. Miller
Karen Lee Miller
Tudy Anesta Simone Miller
Jeffrey Patrick Mogant


Brian John Moroney
Amanda Marie Morrison
Daniel P. Morrissey
Bridgid Tyler Murray
Jeffrey K. O'Connor†
Mary Elizabeth O'Connor
Krystal Lenae Orr*
Tracy J. Ottina-Cserr
Brandon Adelbert Parrelli*
Kristen Anne Pepin
Elizabeth W. Pisarski-Buchholz
Rita Michelle Popot
Christian Anderson Poyant
Vikram Singh Purewal
Elwyn Brewster Quirk
Matthew David Reed
Patrick Michael-George Reilly
Mark Augustus Riley
Elizabeth Rodriguez-Ross
Kenneth Russell Root
Debra L. Rosenthal
Risè Madeleine Rothbart
Michael David Roundy†
Charles Haley Rucks**
Rexinder Singh Sangha
Ann Elizabeth Scagel
Stephanie Hope Schlatter
James Porter Sexton
Toral Navin Shah
Jason Nathaniel Sheffield**
Christopher Michael Silva
Elizabeth Ann Simpson
Sarah Anne Skelcher**
Albert Louis Skorupa
Kelly Ann Smith†
Barbara Louise Snyder†

Arne F. Soldwedel
Margaret Ruth Solist††
Tetyana G. Souza
Brent R. Stack
Anne Elizabeth Stanzone
Deanna M. Stathis
Scott Szczebak
Heather M. Tacconi
Brandon Adelbert Parrelli*
Patrick M. Toney
Arthur William Tornabene-Zalas
Lauren Elizabeth Travis
Lawyer A. Twillie
Christine Jane Unger†
Sandra Wang
Michelle L. Watson
Avril Karleen Waye
Christian E. Weed
William Aristé Wenck*
Christopher John Whalley
Elizabeth Lynn White
Brendan John Witherell†
James H. Woods III
Mark Adam Woronoff**
Thomas John Yelverton†
Joseph Matthew Yorlano
Zoe B. Zeichner

* Degree awarded October 15, 2006
** Degree awarded February 15, 2007

† Degree awarded Cum Laude
†† Degree awarded Magna Cum Laude
††† Degree awarded Summa Cum Laude

A Passion to Learn the Talent to Lead



Meet **Mike Belarmino 3L** and **Tammy Hui 3L**, President of the Student Bar Association and Editor-in-Chief of the *Western New England Law Review*, respectively. Both spent the summer interning at a government agency in Washington, DC, and two years ago, both left jobs thousands of miles away to begin their education at the Western New England College School of Law.

by Deb Whitemore

Ask Mike Belarmino for his thoughts on law, and you can hear the passion in his voice.

"Since I was in middle school, I've been fascinated by how our government works because I think it's an incredible process," he says. "If you read the Constitution—I always liken it to a work of art. Whenever a law is constructed well and enforced properly, it's beautiful."

Perhaps surprisingly given his enthusiasm for the profession, Mike hadn't seriously considered law school until he completed his undergraduate studies and was working as a runner and later an IT coordinator for two Atlanta law firms.

"The attorneys kept telling me I'd make a good lawyer," Mike says. Three years later, he applied and was accepted by the School of Law and decided spending some time in another part of the country would be a nice change.

"I liked that it was a pretty small school, which I thought would be ideal for studying law," he says. "When Dean Michael Johnson in Admissions called, that really surprised me. I didn't realize there was a school out there that would call to tell me I'd been accepted."

After being out of college and in the workforce for over four years, Michael found his first year at the School of Law to be intense as he relearned study habits. "The first four months, I probably spent more time in the library than all of my other years of college combined," he admits.

By his second year, Mike found time to become involved in the Student Bar Association (this year he serves as President) and, through the urging of a professor, he participated in the school's intramural moot court competition and was selected for the Frederick Douglass Moot Court Competition team.

Mike is also enrolled in the combined JD/MBA program offered by the School of Law in collaboration with the AACSB International accredited School of Business, allowing him to receive both a JD and a MBA in three years.

"I'd always considered getting my MBA, and when I heard about the program, it really appealed to me," says Mike. "I feel it will really open up some opportunities for me."

This summer Mike participated in an eight-week internship at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in Washington, DC. Working in the Office of Federal Operations' Appellate Review Program, Mike reviewed discrimination claims from federal agency workers who had already lost their case at the final stage of the complaint process.

"My job was to review the cases, decide whether the agency was correct in its final determination, and write the decision on behalf of the Commission. I got a lot of training on the ins and outs of employment discrimination law," says Mike.

Working for the government that has fascinated him since he was young, "I felt fulfilled by what I was doing," Mike says. "The experience made me confident that the public sector is where I'm going to start after law school. I felt I was doing my part to make the government run."

Tammi Hui considered it a sign. After moving four times in just a couple of years, a recruitment brochure from the School of Law somehow reached her home in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. At the time, Tammy was a project manager for an IT company and looking for a change. She applied, was accepted, and ended up moving thousands of miles away from home to attend the School of Law—without ever visiting the campus.

"I never thought I'd go to law school. I didn't think I had the 'lawyer personality,'" says Tammy. "But I tried it and found that I love it because there's always something new to learn."

Tammy first had to overcome the learning curve that comes with living in a different region and country. While Canada and the United States have similar cultures on the surface, "There were the little things to adjust to, like finding where to shop for groceries or even figuring out the calling plan on my cell phone," she says.

There are differences in the law as well. For example, "Canada didn't have a written Constitution until the 1980s," she says. "Our Constitution is much more specific than general and interpretive. And if you're wondering what the framers of the Constitution were

thinking, you can probably ask them, because they are likely to still be alive."

Tammy says the warm spirit of "community" at the School of Law helped greatly with her transition. "The atmosphere here is amazing," she says. "It's such a small school that it's easy to become involved. In the first year, you have classes with the same 50 people in your section, and you get to know them really well."

In the summer before her second year, Tammy was invited to join the staff of the *Western New England Law Review*. This year she is serving as editor-in-chief. Tammy considers being on *Law Review* a prestigious honor and an opportunity to represent the School of Law in the legal academic community. "When I'm looking back at my law school career someday, I think I will consider my work on the *Review* to be its defining experience," she says.

"We have a faculty committee for the *Law Review*, and they're very supportive," Tammy continues. "All of the professors are really accessible. They live up to that open door policy all professors say they have," says Tammy. "You're never afraid to ask questions. There's a more collaborative than cut-throat atmosphere here."

Tammy is also pursuing the combined JD and MBA degree through the College's School of Business. "I'm just keeping my options open and trying to make myself more marketable," she says.

This summer she also interned with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in Washington, DC, to experience life in the nation's capital and work for a government agency for the first time. While she's enjoyed her time in the Northeast, Tammy longs to explore other areas of the country and aspects of the law before deciding where to set down her roots. Her first goal after law school is to do a judicial clerkship.

Whichever path she takes, Tammy relishes the opportunity to never stop learning. "You're never going to learn everything you need to know, in law, or in life," she says. "You just keep learning—law school just teaches you *how* to learn."

ALUMNI NOTES *Fall 2007*

Class Agents

are needed for the Classes of 1971, 1972, 1974, 1978, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1995, and 2000. If you are interested in serving as a Class Agent please contact Carol Thompson at cthompson@law.wnec.edu.



Stay in the Loop: Please be sure your Class Agent and the Office of Alumni Relations have your current mailing and email addresses.

1970

Class Agent Hon. Peter Sokaris email: usapgs@cs.com

1973

Class Agent Walter Powell email: WalterPowell@srv.edu

1975

Class Agent Richard Fortier email: rfortier02@snet.net

1976

Class Agent Gary Thomas email: gary@wealthtechnology.com

Jeffrey M. Freedman received the 2007 Lawyer of the Year Award at the Bar Association of Erie County's 120th Annual Dinner.

Dr. Joseph C. Rallo has been confirmed as the next president of Angelo State University in San Angelo, TX.

1977

30 Years

Class Agent Marty Martin email: marty_martin@bellsouth.net



Hyman G. Darling has been invited to serve on the Special Needs Alliance. The SNA is comprised of America's leading Disability and Public Benefits lawyers.

Gerald I. Hecht is still maintaining his general law practice in Danbury, CT, and has two sons that are 23 and 20 years of age.

1978



Michael K. Ligorano, a member of the law firm of Norris, McLaughlin & Marcus, P.A., has been selected for inclusion in the 62nd Edition of Marquis' *Who's Who in America*. Attorney Ligorano heads the Immigration Law Group

and focuses his practice on land use and immigration law.

1979

Class Agents: Lew Kurland email: lkurland@khov.com
Andrew Aloe email: andrewaloe@shenck.com
Anne Geoffrion email: anngoeffrion@prodigy.net
Deborah Grover email: attorneygrover@comcast.net

Gregory J. Huether was appointed to chief counsel of the Attorney Grievance Committees of the Appellate Division, 4th Judicial Department. Attorney Huether is also a partner in the Barnes Law firm in Rochester, NY.

1980

The Honorable Mark Nelson received unanimous tenure recommendation as Hudson County Superior Court judge.

1981

Robert A. Weitz has accepted the position as Wilbraham, MA, town administrator.

1982

25 Years

Lisa Prager has joined the law firm of Wilson, Sonsini, Goodrich, & Rosati, as partner, where she will focus on government investigations and enforcement actions, both regulatory and criminal in nature. The law firm is located in Palo Alto, CA.

1983

Class Agents Ellen Teller email: eteller@frac.org
Maureen Burns email: meb@pellegrinolawfirm.com

Thomas P. Cella has been named a "Super Lawyer" by *Connecticut Magazine* for the year 2007, in the area of civil litigation.

Karen A. Goodrow has been named a "Super Lawyer" by *Connecticut Magazine* for the year 2007. Attorney Goodrow works in the Office of the Chief Public Defender and is cochair of the Connecticut Innocence Project (CIP). As *ex post officio* head of the CIP, she recently won exoneration of her client, who served 18 years in a Connecticut prison until DNA testing proved his innocence.

1984

Class Agent Ina Forman email:
aliforman@aol.com

Kenneth R. Plumb has been named a "Super Lawyer" by *Connecticut Magazine* for the year 2007.

Richard Sullivan has been named Commissioner of the Department of Conservation and Recreation for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Sullivan has been mayor of Westfield since 1994 and also serves as chairman of the Westfield School Committee.

1985

Class Agent Pete Steingraber
email: cisco3ack@aol.com

1986

Class Agent Judith Jones email:
jonesjh@aetna.com

Michael H. Halpin has joined the law firm of Grossman and Heavey, located in Brick Township, NJ, where he will focus his practice on professional malpractice claims, complex tort litigation, municipal court, and personal injury litigation.

Althea F. Richardson was elected to join the Board of Directors of Legal Services of the Hudson Valley. Currently, Attorney Richardson is a solo practitioner, specializing in matrimonial and family law.

1987

20 Years

Class Agent Robert Murphy email:
rmurphy@bacon-wilson.com

Brian Cantor has been named "Super Lawyer" by *Connecticut Magazine*, in the area of real estate. Brian has an office in Fairfield, CT.

David Kuzmeski, Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice and Director of Campus Police at American International College, was a presenter at a training session for attorneys who perform public defense work. He is also a practicing attorney in Easthampton, MA.

Beth Mitchell has moved to St. Augustine, FL, where she works for the State of Florida Department of Children and Families and is very involved in advocacy and public policy issues concerning children. She is a member of the National Association of Counsel for Children and practices exclusively as a child welfare attorney. She is the mother of five children, of which only the two youngest still live at home. Her two oldest children have graduated from college and her son is a student at the University of Florida.

1988

Class Agents Ann Marie Lancour email:
lancourA@staff.abanet.org
Michael Borg email:
lawmab@aol.com

1989

Class Agent Jim Baker email:
jbaker@wsh-law.com

Ann M. Courtney has been appointed to the American Bar Association Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession. As part of that work, Attorney Courtney recently participated in the Spirit of Excellence Award luncheon at the ABA midyear meeting in Miami, where she had the pleasure to meet and introduce New Mexico's Secretary of General Services Arturo Jaramillo as he was presented with the ABA's Spirit of Excellence Award. Ann was also a panelist concerning in-house counsel at the Minority Counsel Program in Stamford, CT.

John L. Roberts of Springfield has been certified as an elder law attorney by the National Elder Law Foundation.

Lynn Williams remains in Korea, serving in the Army.

1990

Anne Louise Brady Blanchard, was lead counsel in a \$10 million class action settlement against the Connecticut State Department of Children and Families requiring the state to increase services for Connecticut's mentally ill children.

1991

Class Agents Chris Browne email:
cameronbrowne@msn.com
George Conway email:
attorney@georgeconway.com
Martha Allard email:
marthaallard@comcast.net

1992

15 Years

Class Agent Chris Browne email:
cameronbrowne@msn.com

1993

Class Agents Holly Lemieux email:
hlemieux@lynchlynch.com
Katie Stone Harrington email:
bharrington5207@comcast.net

Sister Nancy J. Downing professed her final vows as a member of the Congregation of Notre Dame in St. Bartholomew Church in Manchester, CT. Sister Nancy is the executive director of the Maura Clark/Ita Ford Center in Brooklyn, NY, where she assists economically disadvantaged immigrant women find employment by helping them learn English and obtain their high school equivalency degree.

Kenneth F. Kozik has joined Greenberg Traurig in the Boston Office as a shareholder where he will focus his practice on general intellectual property management, supervision of domestic and foreign patent application programs, prosecution, appeal, validity, due diligence, and noninfringement opinions.



Brad Mondschein has become a member of Pullman & Comley, LLC in the Hartford office where he will be part of its Energy & Utilities section. Attorney Mondschein, who has joined the firm as a partner, focuses his practice in the area of regulated industries, telecommunications, and the emerging technology of fuel cells and alternative energy products.

1994

Class Agents Melanie Branham email:
melbranham@branhamlawfirm.org
Lisa Bongiovi email:
lisa.bongiovi@otis.com

Jeffrey I. Fialky married Emily R. Brown on October 8, 2006 in the Amalfi Ballroom in Narragansett, RI.

Seth A. Litman has been named a shareholder in the firm of Alembik, Fine & Callner, P.A. located in Atlanta, where he will continue his work defending corporations, including most notably pharmaceutical companies, medical device companies, and insurers.

Elizabeth A. Martineau has become a partner in the firm of Hedrick, Eastman, Gardner & Kincheloe, LLP, in their Charlotte, NC, office where she will focus on general civil litigation, construction litigation, employment law, insurance coverage disputes, medical and professional malpractice, and public entities and municipalities.

1995

Doreen M. Abdullovski has joined the compliance department of the law firm of Weltman, Weinberg & Reis Co., LPA, in Columbus, OH.

1996

Class Agents Marie Angelides email:
angelides@angelidesandsouth.com
Frances South email:
south@angelidesandsouth.com



David E. Cassidy has joined the law firm of Norris, McLaughlin & Marcus in Somerville, NJ, where he will practice in the area of labor and employment law.

ALUMNI NOTES

Fall 2007

Heard Around Campus

Excerpts from Recent Speeches on Campus

"As we embark upon a new Strategic Plan in the beginning of 2008, we must decide what role Western New England College will have in a global society that is truly connected and interdependent. If we are to continue to be leaders in this quest, then we must heed the realities that will soon shape our future."

Dr. Anthony S. Caprio, President of Western New England College, speaking at the annual Fall Gathering of faculty and staff on September 18, 2007.

"There is no question the Constitution gives Congress the authority to grant property rights for patents and copyrights. But it also gives a rationale, which is pretty clear. And here is where I think there have been a lot of problems in this area of the law. The goal set out in the Constitution is to benefit the public, increase the storehouse of knowledge—more stuff gets out into the public domain—not to reward the inventor because they created something wonderful."

Andrew Beckerman-Rodau '81, Professor of Law and Codirector of the Intellectual Property Law Concentration at Suffolk University Law School, opening the 2007-08 Clason Speaker Series on September 27, 2007.



Julie A. Dialessi-Lafley has been honored with the distinction of 2007 Massachusetts Super Lawyer Rising Star.



Michael J. Grilli has been honored with the distinction of 2007 Massachusetts Super Lawyer Rising Star.

1997

10 Years

Class Agent Michael Blanchard email michael.blanchard@bingham.com



Kristine Roderick Jones, and her husband, Tim, welcomed their first child, Abigail Ann Jones, born on May 11, 2007. After spending the summer with her new daughter, Kristine will resume working at Morrison Mahoney in Hartford, where her practice focuses on professional and general liability defense.

Kelley Galica Peck has been admitted as a partner in the law firm of Halloran & Sage LLP, in Hartford, where she will focus her practice on sophisticated estate planning and the administration of estates and trusts.

1998

Class Agent Darlene Massery email darlenemassery@hotmail.com



Jeffrey Burstein and his wife Elysa, of Longmeadow, MA, along with sister Marissa, announce the arrival of their son, Scott Spencer, on February 20, 2007. He weighed eight pounds, four ounces and was 21 inches long. Marissa is three years old and loves helping out with her little brother. Elysa teaches fourth grade at Chapin Street Elementary School in Ludlow, MA. Jeff is a partner at Burstein Law Offices, P.C. in Springfield.

Martin Dunn has been appointed vice president of contracts/legal for TurboCare, Inc. headquartered in Chicopee, MA. Attorney Dunn will serve as senior legal advisor and corporate secretary to the company which is a subsidiary of Siemens AG and has over \$100 million in worldwide sales.

1999

Class Agent Rebecca Proakis email rproakis@nage.org



Gina M. Barry has been honored with the distinction of 2007 Massachusetts Super Lawyer Rising Star.

2000



Justin H. Dion has been honored with the distinction of 2007 Massachusetts Super Lawyer Rising Star.

Jeremy C. Johnson has become a partner at the law firm of Ferris & Associates, P.C. in Williamsburg, VA.



Arose W. Nielsen was awarded the YWCA's Katharine Forbes Erskine Award in Business & Law on May 8, 2007. Attorney Nielsen received the award for her professional achievements and her leadership, particularly for championing the civil rights of immigrants and low-income residents of Worcester County. Attorney Nielsen has moved from legal aid to private practice as a partner of Carvajal & Nielsen, P.C. with offices in Springfield and Worcester.

Yvonne G. Pesce married Martin W. Flynn Jr., on June 30, 2006 in Feeding Hills, MA. Yvonne is an assistant district attorney in Hampden County, and Martin is a nuclear design engineer at Entergy in Vernon, VT.

2001

Class Agents Michele Morris email: mmorris13@hotmail.com
Matt Massengill email: mattm@masselderplanning.com

Representative Angelo J. Puppolo Jr. was elected to the position of State Representative in the 12th Hampden District of Massachusetts.

2002

5 Years

Class Agents Lori Leavitt email: legallylori@aol.com
Gregory Lenetis email: glenetis@visadatane.net



Adam J. Basch has been honored with the distinction of 2007 Massachusetts Super Lawyer Rising Star.

Crescent A. Moran had an article published in the *National Law Journal* and is working at the law firm of Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker LLP, in Washington, DC.

Betsy Weiner continues her work in Iraq in the Public Affairs office of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Kim Andereck is managing member of the Grubb & Ellis commercial real estate office in Cheyenne, WY. He also serves as in-house counsel for Grubb & Ellis/Wyoming.

Nicole M. Bertrand has joined the law firm of Tyler Cooper in Hartford, where she will focus her practice on business services.

Adam Boston is an associate in the law firm of Robinson & Cole, located in Hartford.

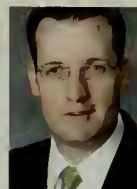
Jason Bromley is in the JAG Corps and currently stationed in Iraq.

Paul Chiniche is the proud father of two girls. After Hurricane Katrina, Paul and his family moved from the Gulf Coast to Oxford, MA. Paul has opened up his own practice focusing on criminal defense, divorce, and personal injury.

Daniel Dalrymple is in the JAG Corps and currently stationed in Iraq.



Katharina A. Dienwebel started her own practice in April of 2005, focusing on real estate matters. In November of 2005, Katharina and her husband welcome daughter, Zahara Skye, and in April of 2007, added a baby boy to their family named Voytek Lotus.



Dennis G. Egan Jr. has joined the firm of Bacon & Wilson, located in Springfield, as a member of the business and corporate department.

Linda D. Fakhoury continues working as an assistant county attorney in Dutchess County, NY, where she prosecutes juvenile delinquents and PINS, and has expanded her knowledge of municipal law. She has dealt with some intense and interesting cases, and even completed two appeals, one of which she won and may have created precedence for dealing with juveniles on probation.

Michael Leedberg is working at the Boston law firm of Pierce, Davis & Perritano where he focuses his practice on civil litigation, employment law, and civil rights. He is currently an associate trial attorney. Michael was married to Kristina Moe on October 27, 2006.

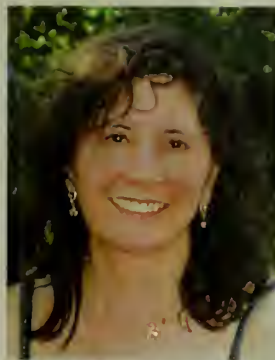
2003

Class Agents Anderson Theodore email: a_theodorejd@yahoo.com
Karen Romano email: karen161@msn.com
Richard Gray email: rlgray9@hotmail.com
Jennifer Cunningham email: jbcunning@comcast.net

2004

Class Agent Linda Fakhoury email: fakhourylaw@aol.com

Where are they now?



Robin Bikkal '82
Bedford, NY
Senior Partner
Silverman, Bikkal &
Sandberg, LLP

Robin Bikkal spent 10 years working for the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance in the position of District Tax Attorney and Appraiser while simultaneously developing her private immigration practice. In 2001 she started a firm with her husband, retired N.Y.S. Supreme Court Justice Donald N. Silverman. She focuses her practice on immigration and nationality law.

Describe a typical day in your current position.

"My practice is devoted to immigration and nationality law. I confer with clients about half of the day. When I am not seeing clients, I am preparing cases for filing, including appeals and trials, and managing the office the rest of the time."

Why did you decide to go into immigration and nationality law?

"It suits my personality. I speak four languages. I grew up abroad in Spain and Italy, so I feel an affinity for immigrants. I get great satisfaction in successfully helping immigrants acquire lawful status in this country."

If you could teach a law school course what would it be?

"Immigration law. I take a very practical approach to the practice of immigration law. It's important to connect the law to your client's needs and goals."

What is your best memory from the School of Law?

"Trusts and Estates was probably my favorite class. We had a great class and visiting professor John Weaver was a wonderful instructor. I enjoyed my work as editor of our senior yearbook and coordinated the school's basketball tournament. Volleyball is my favorite sport, so in addition to playing the sport, I ran the volleyball program for the School of Law."

ALUMNI NOTES

Fall 2007

Where are they now?



Dr. Serge Martinez '01
Crestwood, KY
University of Louisville Medical Center
Chairman of the Institutional Review Board
Chairman of Research Integrity Committee
Professor of Surgery and Ethics, Institute for Bioethics, Health Policy and Law

Dr. Serge Martinez earned his M.D. from the University of Miami in 1969, completed a residency in 1974, and practiced medicine as an ear, nose, and throat doctor in an academic setting for 23 years before returning to school in 1997 to earn his J.D. from Western New England College School of Law. He is currently on the faculty in the Department of Surgery and a member of the Institute for Bioethics at the University of Louisville.

Describe your responsibilities in your different roles at the University.

The Institutional Review Board oversees all of the human research at the University of Louisville. Our main responsibility is to ensure that the individuals in a research study maintain their autonomy and privacy rights, and aren't unknowingly exposed to unacceptable risks. In the Research Integrity Committee of the university hospital, we look at the same research studies and ensure that the hospital where the research is performed is not placed at legal or financial liabilities that are out of proportion to the value of the studies being performed. The Institute for Bioethics, Health Policy and Law, which is headed by Mark Rothstein, a friend of Dean Gaudio, is staffed by attorneys who have additional advanced degrees. We tend to look at legal issues, see how they pertain to the field of medicine, try to combine them, and then teach them to the medical students and residents."

What made you decide to get your J.D.?

"I have four sons who are lawyers and another one starting law school this year. I had to be up on equal terms with them if I didn't want them to pull the wool over my eyes with their arrogance."

How does your J.D. along with you M.D. help you in your positions?

"It's been invaluable. I know the area of law I deal with and I know medicine. I know the rights of patients. I know what the privacy laws are about, since I was forced to help decipher the HIPAA rules as they pertain to research and private practice here at the University. Being able to straddle both sides is very helpful. For what I am doing, Western New England College School of Law provided me with a great training in the law. Looking back at the professors, they were all excellent and they did set me up to have confidence in what I do now. In fact, I have no doubt that I received better training in legal principles than my oldest son did at Yale."

If you could teach a class what would it be and why?

"The course that I think underwrites all is administrative law. I might have a biased perspective, since all human research seems to be governed by administrative law as overseen by the Office of Civil Rights. But that's what I do day-to-day and if I had an opportunity I would like to teach law as it pertains to research. When I took the Kentucky Bar, I realized that what was stressed the most were administrative law principles, and, of course, evidence."

Daniel Mazzone is in the JAG Corps and currently stationed in Iraq.

Ramin Mirshah works for Beaucoup Chapeaux, a Tribeca NYC based television Production Company. He is in the field of entertainment law, where he is a negotiator, dealing with celebrity talent and music licensing. At Beaucoup Chapeaux, Ramin has negotiated music licensing deals on behalf of the world's largest advertisers, major music publishers, and record labels, including Warner Chappell, Sony BMG, EMI, Universal, Disney Music Publishing, and Rodgers & Hammerstein Music. He has negotiated, drafted, and brokered deals for musicians, celebrities, and athletes including Pierce Brosnan, Steve Young, Irving Berlin, KC and the Sunshine Band, Carmen Electra, Samantha Brown, Dick Cavett, The Ohio Players, and Brian Eno.

Robert Moore bought a house in Merrimack, NH, where he practices family law, and has a daughter, Sabrina Marie Moore.

Devin M. Moriarty and Erin E. Manning were married on September 2, 2006, in Wilbraham, MA. Devin is currently working at the law firm of Moriarty & Connor, LLC, in Springfield, MA.

Brenda Oppermann has been in Iraq since January 2006 when she began her tenure as the Chief of Party for the U.S. Institute of Peace (USIP). While at USIP, Brenda managed programs dealing with education, training, religious tolerance, and the rule of law. She left USIP in February 2007 to join ECC, a U.S. company engaged in building army installations and police stations for the Iraqi government. At ECC Brenda serves as a capacity and business development manager. In this position she organizes vocational skills building and business development training for Iraqi subcontractors who work with ECC and assists ECC in entering new markets in Central Asia and Africa. Brenda was recently on sabbatical as a Research Fellow at Coventry University in the UK. Her research focused in part on the legal issues surrounding private companies working in conflict zones.

Matt Provost has joined the law firm of Diana, Conti & Tunila, LLP, in Manchester CT, where he focuses in the area of family law.

Maryangela Scalzo is a DSS attorney working for the Oneida County, NY, Department of Social Services, dealing with child support, child abuse, and neglect matters.

2005

Class Agents Sara Micflikier email:

saramicflikier@hotmail.com

Kelley Cooper Miller email:

kellycooper@yahoo.com

IN MEMORIAM

The magazine has received notice of the deaths of the following members of the School of Law family.

Leon J. Alechny '71 passed away January 26, 2007. He leaves his wife, Nancy Alechny; his daughters, Thaisa and Kristin; his son, Chad; brother, Vincent; and sister, Elizabeth Bradlau.

James R. Crowe '56 passed away July 8, 2007. He is survived by his wife, Eileen T. Crowe; his son, John; and two daughters, Helen Crowe and Mary O'Brien.

Lawrence F. Delmone '75 passed away January 31, 2007. Larry is survived by his wife, Judy; his son, Jonathan; daughters, Carrie and Katherine; grandchildren, Alexis and Ryan; and his brother, Donald.

Michael P. Derby '90 passed away February 7, 2002.

Walter G. Ford '67 passed away February 21, 2002.

Warren J. Johnson '77 passed away March 5, 2007. He leaves his wife, Carolyn; a daughter, Kristen and her children, Jonathan and Kelsey of Fairfield, CT. He also leaves two brothers, William and James.

Angelo Monni '82 passed away March 15, 2007.

William T. O'Leary '70 passed away March 4, 2007. He is survived by his wife, Lillian; two sons, Brian and William Jr.; and eight grandchildren.

Craig Robinson '85 passed away June 17, 2007. He is survived by his wife, Linda J. Tonoli, and a son, Christian.

Robert I. Singer '68 passed away February 11, 2007. He leaves his wife, Rockie Singer; sons Mitch and Brett; and grandchildren, Ian and Adrienne.

Fredric T. Suss Sr. '42 passed away January 26, 2007. He leaves his eight children, Susan, Christopher, Jonathan, Fred Jr., Jane Wilkes, Rosemary Cammaroto, Madeline Suss, and Jennifer Gilmer.



We are always interested in hearing from you. If you have news of career advancement or change, professional accomplishments or activities, marriages, births, changes in address, or any other news, please share it with us.

Send your Alumni Notes to:
Carol Thompson, Office of Law Alumni Relations,
Western New England College School of Law,
1215 Wilbraham Road, Springfield, MA 01119-2684
or email cthompson@law.wnec.edu.

Gillian K. Bearns has joined the land law practice group of Robinson & Cole, LLP in Hartford. She also spent a year as an assistant professor in planning and law in the Department of Historic Preservation at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, VA.

Laurie Lawlor has accepted a position as law clerk for The Honorable Judge Vanessa L. Bryant at the Federal District Court in Connecticut.

2006

Class Agent Julia Lentini email:
juliaklentini@gmail.com



Peter Corjulo was recently sworn in to the Maine Bar at the York County Courthouse. After the oath, Peter signed the book that holds signatures of every attorney admitted to York County, including John Adams. He was also sworn in to the Massachusetts Bar.

Scott Jelesch previously held a temporary position as staff attorney in the housing unit at Western Massachusetts Legal Services in Springfield. Immediately following his term at WMLS, Scott accepted a position as Regional Counsel for the National Association of Government Employees/Service Employees International Union (NAGE/SEIU) in Connecticut. He is very pleased with the exposure he has garnered in these practice areas, and he is looking forward to what his career continues to bring.

Julia Lentini and her partner, Heather LaMothe, were married in a ceremony on June 2, 2007, in Key West, FL. Julia and Heather welcomed 40 friends and family to the Keys, and attendees included alums **Brandy Pirtle '06** and **Jason Sheffield '07**. The ceremony was officiated by **Nancy Sykes '89**, Dean of Students for the School of Law,

and a good friend of the couple. Immediately after their honeymoon, the couple purchased and renovated their condominium in South Windsor, CT. Lentini was recently admitted to the USDC for the District of Massachusetts, and to the Connecticut bar. She also serves as the cochair for the Western Massachusetts Committee of the Women's Bar Association.

Adam Mandell and Elise Collins were married on June 23, 2007, in Staatsburg, NY, and honeymooned in Costa Rica. They are currently residing in Newton, MA, where Adam works as special assistant to Representative Barney Frank.

Randy Milou opened his own firm in January 2007 and has a broad based practice that includes Real Estate, Estate Planning, Personal Injury, and Criminal Defense. He participates in the Hampden County Bar Advocate program through which he accepts appointments of indigent clients in the District Courts, and is also a title agent for First American and a notary public. With locations in both Springfield and West Springfield, his practice has grown quickly to over 35 clients. Licensed in Massachusetts and the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts, he was also recently admitted to the Connecticut Bar. An active member of the Massachusetts Bar Association, Hampden County Bar Association, American Bar Association, American Association for Justice, Boston Bar Association, Federal Bar Association, and the Internet Bar Association.

Natasha Thoren received a Health Law LL.M. from Saint Louis University and recently accepted a job with Polaris Management Partners in New York City working as a consultant focusing on pharmaceutical compliance.

2007

Class Agents Kelly Koch email:
kellykoch32@gmail.com
Stephanie Schlatter email:
sschlatter@hotmail.com

Teresa Bogacz is currently the senior compliance and business practices officer at Pratt & Whitney in East Hartford, CT.

Alumni Benefits and Services

As an alumnus/a of Western New England College School of Law, the following benefits and services are available to you:



Networking with Other Alums

Networking opportunities for alumni include the Alumni Receptions hosted by the School of Law at various locations around the country, reunions, and the Dinner for Students and Alumni of Color.

The Law Alumni Association is branching out and would like your support revitalizing our alumni chapters. We are currently forming chapters in Washington, DC; Boston; and Hartford. To participate, please contact the Office of Law Alumni Relations at **413-782-1311**.

The Alumni Healthful Living Center (AHLIC)

Law alumni are welcome to use the world-class facilities of the AHLIC free of charge. Popular amenities include the fitness center, pool, and track. For details, call **413-782-1518**.



Alumni Association ID Card

The Alumni Association ID allows alumni to use the resources on campus including the Law Library and the Alumni Healthful Living Center. For details, call **413-782-1311** or email cthompson@law.wnec.edu.

Transcript Requests

Law transcripts are issued by the Student Records Office at the School of Law. There is no charge for this service. For more information, call the Student Records Office at **413-782-1401** or fax your request to **413-796-2067**.

Replacing a Diploma

If your diploma is lost or damaged, you can replace it by calling Student Administrative Services at **800-325-1122 ext. 2080**. (A \$30 service fee is required.)



Insurance Discounts

As a graduate of Western New England College, you may qualify for a special group discount on your auto, home, and renter's insurance. For details, call **413-782-1311** or visit www.law.wnec.edu/alumni.

Alumni Affinity Credit Card

The College offers enrollment in an affinity credit card. For every purchase you make with the card a percentage will be donated to the College. For details call the Office of Law Alumni Relations at **413-782-1311**.

Career Services

Alumni seeking jobs or looking for qualified candidates can take advantage of the free lifelong services available through the Office of Career Services. Through reciprocity agreements with over 50 law schools across the country, we can connect you to thousands of job opportunities. For more information, call **413-782-1416** or email jobpost@law.wnec.edu.

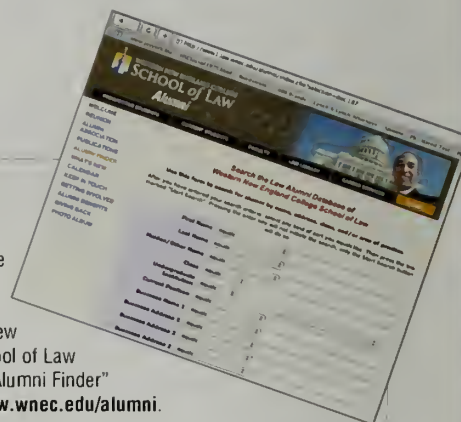
Continuing Legal Education Programs

Our highly successful CLE programs have covered topics ranging from probating an estate to trying OUI cases. All alums get a discounted rate of \$80. For details, visit www.law.wnec.edu.

The Office of Law Alumni Relations serves as a resource to our members, committees, and regional chapters. Feel free to contact Carol Thompson at **413-782-1311** with questions about benefits, events, or volunteer opportunities.

Alumni Finder and Alumni Website

Use our website to receive news from the School, access library resources, or find other Western New England College School of Law alumni through our "Alumni Finder" feature. Visit www.law.wnec.edu/alumni.



J.D. Course Auditing

J.D. courses in the School of Law may be audited on a space-available basis with the permission of the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs by an alumnus/a who has completed the J.D. degree at Western New England College School of Law. For details, call **413-782-1262** or visit www.law.wnec.edu/alumni.

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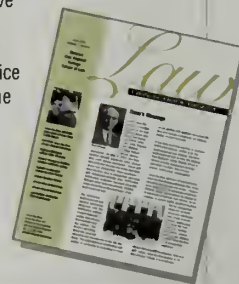
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The College Bookstore

There's no better way to proudly display your law school connection than with a shirt or memento from the College Bookstore. For more information, call **413-782-1284** or visit www.wnec.bkstr.com.

Alumni Publications

Alumni of the School of Law receive the full-color *Perspectives* magazine twice a year and the newsletter *Law School Digest* four times a year.



Learn more about alumni benefits at:
www.law.wnec.edu/alumni.

School of Law Library

Free access to western Massachusetts' only academic law library is an outstanding alumni resource. For hours or information, call **413-782-1457** or visit the School of Law website at <http://www.law.wnec.edu/library>.

D'Amour Library

The D'Amour Library serves as a valuable resource to alumni undertaking professional research or expanding their personal reading enjoyment. Alumni I.D. card required. Call **413-782-1535** or visit <http://libraries.wnec.edu>.



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PERSPECTIVES

ALUMNI MAGAZINE

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UPCOMING EVENTS 2007-2008

NOVEMBER 2007	JANUARY 2008	APRIL 2008	MAY 2008
<p>13 Law and Business Center for Advancing Entrepreneurship Speaker Series featuring Dr. Fran Harris S. Prestley Blake Law Center 12:00 noon</p> <p>13 CLE Seminar: Sixth Annual Bankruptcy Law Conference S. Prestley Blake Law Center 4:00-7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>29 Law and Business Center for Advancing Entrepreneurship Speaker Series featuring Stephanie Capparell S. Prestley Law Center 12:00 noon</p>	<p>8 Law and Business Center for Advancing Entrepreneurship Speaker Series featuring Michael Barr S. Prestley Law Center 12:00 noon</p>	<p>17 Law Commencement Springfield Symphony Hall</p> <p>For more information visit www.law.wnec.edu/alumni or call Carol Thompson at 413-782-1311.</p>
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